REM ZAMORA

GOODIES have arrived. Winnie, not the storm, but the Pooh, delights this child.

■ Lifestyle / C1
Mother of all bridal fairs stars 13 designers at NBC Tent.

■ Entertainment / A33
Catherine Zeta-Jones: I'm the new Imelda Marcos

■ News / A2
Mike A. on Abadia's allegation: Cock and bull story

■ News / A2
Maynilad water rates up by 50% effective January 2005

JOB Market
Check out 1,000 high-end job vacancies

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, December 5, 2004 ★★ 130 pages 18 sections Vol. 19 No. 361 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Corpus: All-out war even against the powerful

A WAR with no quarter.

This was the pledge made by retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus yesterday when asked by the INQUIRER how he planned to stamp out illegal logging in the country in the wake of the massive floods in Luzon that killed hundreds of people and ravaged agricultural farms.

Corpus said the government was ready not

CORPUS/ A6

GMA suspends all logging

Illegal loggers likened to terrorists

By Julie Labog-Javellana, Cynthia D. Balana and Michael Lim Ubac

LUMPING illegal loggers together with terrorists and drug dealers, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered all logging activity in the country suspended after massive floods in Luzon blamed on rampant tree-felling left over 1,000 people dead or missing.

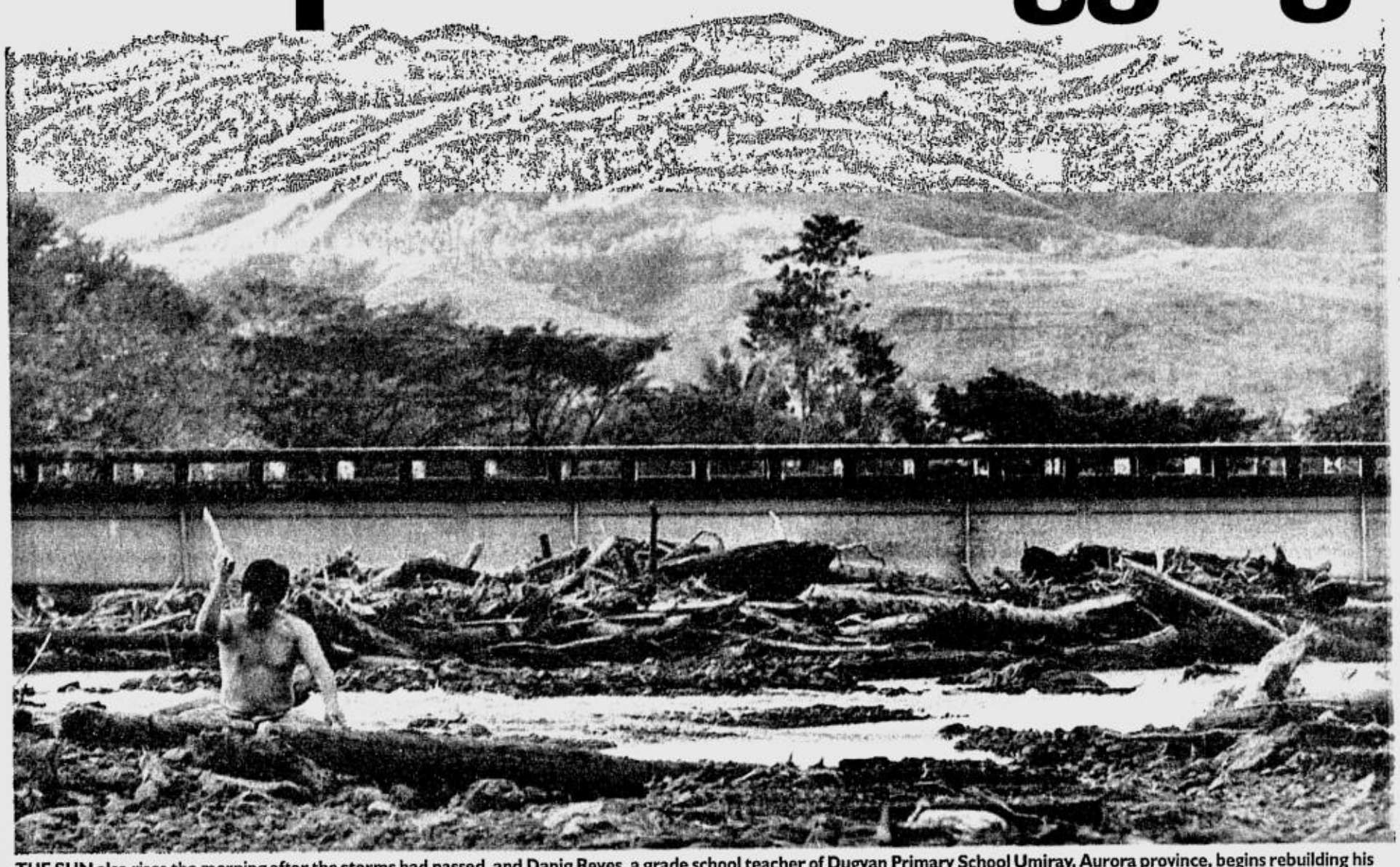
Ms Arroyo, in a statement released by Malacañang yesterday, also urged Congress to amend the environmental laws and impose harsher penalties on illegal loggers and corrupt officials in cahoots with them.

"The President ordered the suspension of logging permits all over the country," Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said in an interview aired on ANC television.

Ms Arroyo's own statement as released by the Palace did not mention any order to suspend all logging activity in the country.

• Sen. Richard Gordon has a novel idea. He told the INQUIRER that, in the spirit of bayanihan and volunteerism, he was filing a bill in the Senate that would enlist prisoners who were not hardened criminals to plant trees as part of the reforestation

GMA/ A21



THE SUN also rises the morning after the storms had passed, and Danig Reyes, a grade school teacher of Dugyan Primary School Umiray, Aurora province, begins rebuilding his home in Barangay South Poblacion, Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, with the very logs that had rushed down his home to destruction. Gabaldon borders Aurora. REM ZAMORA

No more homes to return to, residents stream out of town

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE SUN finally shone yesterday on the still isolated town of Dingalan in Aurora, allowing its stricken residents to begin an exodus to safe refuge.

"Many of my constituents have been streaming out on foot, heading to Cabanatuan City, Manila, or wherever they have relatives," Board Member Sherwin Taay told the PDI Central Luzon Desk by phone on reaching Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, near the boundary of Dingalan before noon.

It was the first call Taay had made since Tuesday, when power was cut in Dingalan and the batteries of mobile phones—now the sole means of communication in the town—could not be recharged. Yesterday, phone batteries were being charged through a generator available in Gabaldon, a two-hour walk west of Dingalan.

The improved weather also helped military cargo planes, helicopters and seacraft reach thousands cut off by landslides and floods. But supplies were short and fear of disease was spreading.

A Navy vessel was en route to the port of nearby Infanta Friday night to deliver earth-moving equipment to that town, and also to Real and General Nakar, the three towns in Quezon that accounted for most of the casualties, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said in Manila.

He said this would speed up the search for the missing and clear roads blocked by landslides.

Reuters quoted the military as saying that it would take at least a

NO MORE/ A8

STORIES FROM THE DEPTHS

How 'ro-ro' ship brought 1st batch of relief goods

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

INFANTA, Quezon—When the Grandstar 2 sailed yesterday from the port of Atimonan, Quezon, toward the calamity-stricken northern part of the province, it was for a humanitarian reason—to transport relief goods.

The voyage of mercy of the roll-on roll-off (ro-ro) vessel ended at the Real town port in Barangay Ungos, where a hungry crowd met the trucks that it disgorged. According to witnesses, a riot for the food could have broken out were it not for the presence of Army troops and members of the 17 groups that joined the journey on Lamon Bay.

Local government officials led by Mayor Grace America distributed the precious cargo to the calamity victims in front of the Infanta cathedral.

It was the first batch of relief goods from the private sector to reach the town, the mayor said. "Thank you. This is like manna from heaven," she told the representatives of the donor groups.

The voyage of mercy was triggered by a plea aired Friday morning by Rep. Proceso Alcala (Quezon, 2nd district) over a cable TV program in Lucena City that was "heard" as far away as Hong Kong.

Mindful of the swell of support for the relief campaign being conducted by vari-

HOW/ A8

They walked slowly to safety, avoiding bodies along the way

By Romy Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

REAL, Quezon—The air smelled of death. Maribeth and Rita, both nine months pregnant, walked slowly through the muddy water and debris. Not because they were due to give birth any day now, but because they did not want to step on floating bodies.

Together with their family, the two left Barangay Kiloloron which was near the sea and headed for Barangay Tanauan, hoping to escape the rampaging mudslides brought by Tropical Depression "Winnie."

"Winnie" had caught everyone by surprise. The day started out sunny and then it started to rain; it never stopped.

At 6:30 p.m. that Monday, Maribeth Amida Canales noticed that the spring near her house in Barangay Kiloloron was rising steadily.

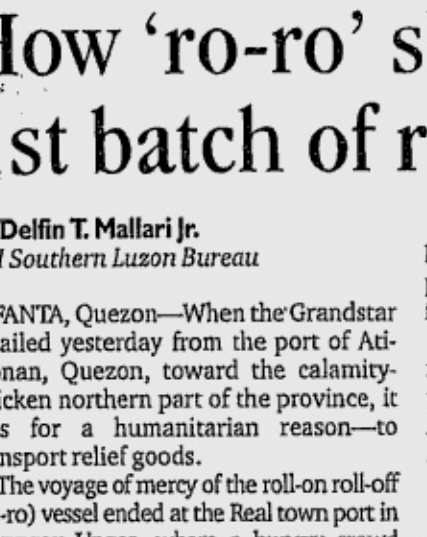
Maribeth went to an uncle's house nearby, but the waters there had swelled just the same. She tried to open the door and immediately, she was swept away by rushing mud, twigs and rocks.

"I clung to a tree branch which was stuck in the corner of the house. I heard a little boy cry for help. It was my 9-year old Christian. I thought he was at his grandparents' house. I managed to grab his hands and held him tightly," Maribeth told the INQUIRER.

They decided to go to the only structure left standing—the Kiloloron school building which was located near the

THEY WALKED/ A8

Sex high point of most women's days



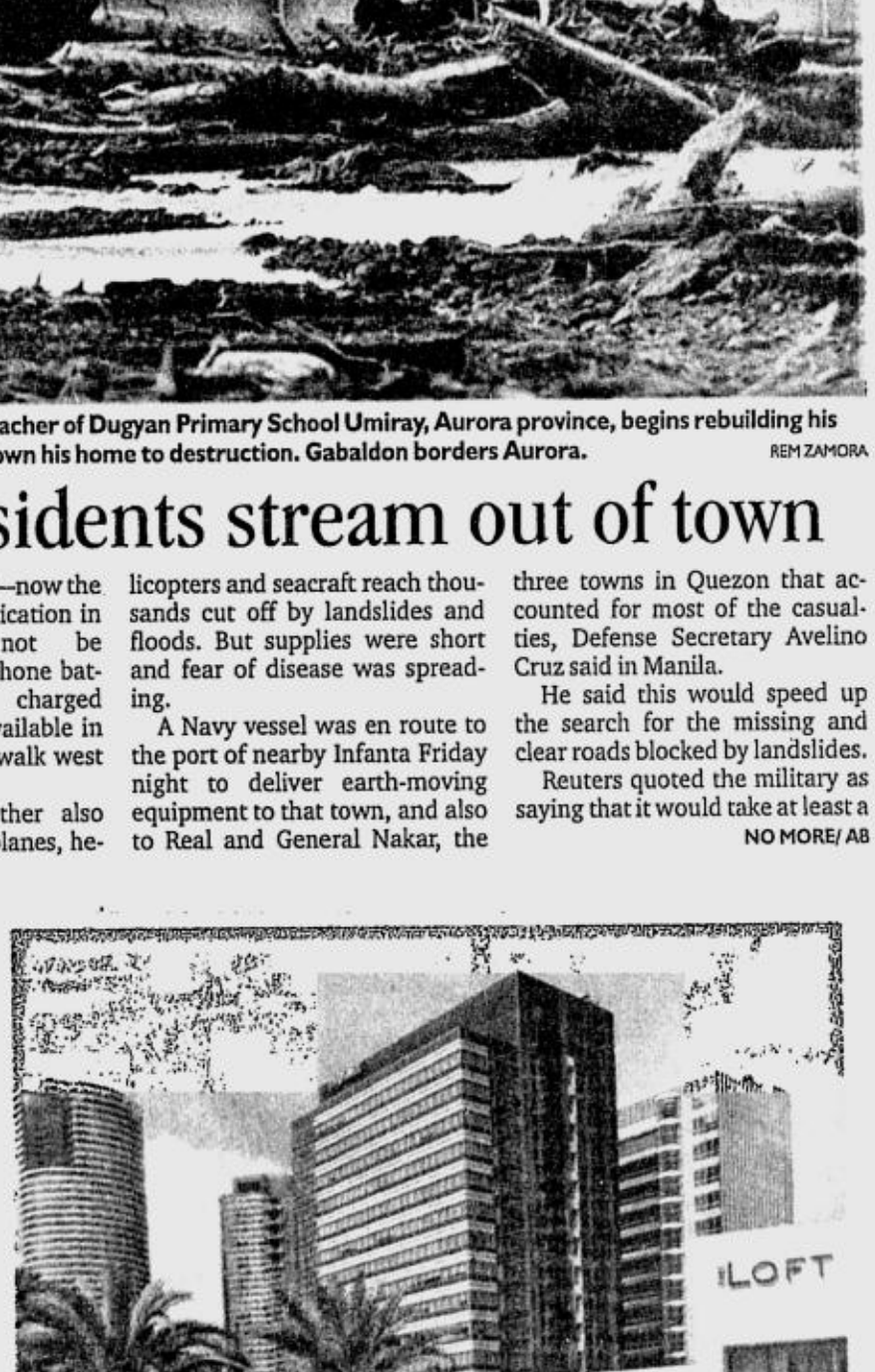
WASHINGTON—Having sex is the high point of most women's days, while commuting is the low point. Also, most women like being with their kids less than they will admit, according to a study published last week.

While the results may not appear startling, the method used to assess mood represents a new and more accurate way of figuring out how happy people are, researchers report in Friday's issue of the Journal Science.

They propose that their tool could be used to plan social policy.

"Current measures of well-being and quality of life need to be signifi-

SEX/ A6



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

WEATHER FORECAST

RECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly udy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers

SOURCE: PAGASA

MPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/12/04/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Water rates up 50%

OVERNMENT regulators have allowed the financially ail- ıg water concessionaire, Maynilad Water Services, to ıarge its 5.2 million customers an increased rate of P30.19 er cubic meter, a 50 percent increase from the present tar- f of P19.92 per cubic meter, beginning in the new year.

The increase was approved in a solution last week by the etropolitan Waterworks and Sew- age System Regulatory Office.

MWSS administrator Orlando ondrade said the tariff rate ad- stment was part of the recom- endations made by the receiver ›pointed by the Quezon City re- onal court hearing the rehabili- tion case of Maynilad.

Maynilad needs the new tariff tes to improve its financial viabili- and regain the trust of investors, :cording to the rehabilitation plan :cepted by the court and which is :ing reviewed by the receiver.

An MWSS official earlier said ıe regulatory body had no ıoice but to implement whatev- the court approves to ensure ıe rehabilitation of Maynilad which operates Manila's west zone concession.

President Macapagal-Arroyo, who during the election campaign earlier this year prevailed on the water concessionaires to hold off any rate increases, conceded last month the inevitability of water rate increases this Christmas.

Manila Water, the east zone concessionaire, has proposed an increase of P2.18 per cubic meter in its rates which it intends to implement in January. The proposal is still being assessed by regulators.

MWSS and Maynilad officials have until Dec. 15 to conduct public hearings on the new approved tariff rates for Maynilad.

The Water for the People Network coalition earlier deplored the planned increase in Maynilad's rates, calling it "unjustified, unacceptable and immoral."

"Maynilad has no right to implement a rate increase. First, because it owes around P7.45 billion in unauthorized collection of foreign currency differential adjustment (FCDA) and accelerated extraordinary price adjustment (AEPA). Second, it has consistently failed to meet its service performance commitments," said the Ibon Databank in a statement.

The FCDA allows the two water concessionaires to recover losses from the peso's depreciation as it pays off dollar-denominated concession fees to the MWSS and for other loans they acquired to fund service expansion and improvement of pipelines. It is computed quarterly, depending on the rate of peso depreciation against the US dollar.

Customers' water bills reflect the basic charge, currency adjustment and the environment and sewerage charges.

The Water for the People Network recently filed a comment on the Maynilad rehabilitation plan with the Quezon City court asking the court to deny the rate increase petition.

It cited, among other reasons, that the plan would violate the constitutional limit on foreign ownership of public utilities, noting that foreign equity in Maynilad would exceed 40 percent under the plan.

It also said the plan did not present a viable solution to Maynilad's financial losses, even as it called for drastic increases in tariff rates and down-scaled performance targets.

The coalition urged the court to junk the rehabilitation proposal and reiterated its demand for "an immediate and complete government takeover of Maynilad while ensuring that Benpres and Suez—Maynilad's owners—pay for all their financial obligations to government and customers." *Christine Gaylican*

PRINCE CHARMING
President Macapagal-Arroyo beams as she receives Britain's Prince Andrew in Malacañang yesterday. The Duke of York was here on a three-day visit to promote British trade and investment relations with the Philippines.

Stop Iraq-bound OFWs, DOLE urged

y Cynthia D. Balana

NO CONGRESSIONAL leaders esterday asked the Department of ıbor and Employment to block the heduled departure for Iraq of me 700 overseas Filipino workers is week and sought the filing of ıarges against their recruiters.

Deputy Speaker for Mindanao erry Salapuddin of Basilan and mboanga del Sur Rep. Roseller ırinaga, chair of the House comittee on labor and employment, id the workers' departure violates e deployment ban imposed by alacañang and could pose anoth- serious problem for the govern- ent which was still working for the release of abducted Filipino accountant Roberto Tarongoy in Iraq.

Salapuddin urged the workers to abort their departure, saying no one could guarantee their safety in Iraq.

Barinaga said the labor department should explain to the OFWs the risk they would face in that troubled country.

"We urge our OFWs to cooperate with the Arroyo government since it is for their safety and welfare that we have imposed a deployment ban on Iraq," Barinaga said.

He said the DOLE should also blacklist the recruitment agencies which processed the working papers of the OFWs despite the deployment ban.

"It is lamentable that despite what happened to Angelo de la Cruz, Angelito Nayan and Tarongoy, our OFWs and recruitment agencies have not learned their lesson. These recruitment companies should be punished for their uncaring attitude to our OFWs," Barinaga said.

Salapuddin lamented that recruiters never learned their lesson as they continued to send OFWs to troubled countries and rake in huge profits at their expense.

"If something goes wrong, the government is left to clean up the mess. Recruiters who transgress the Arroyo government deployment ban must not only be blacklisted, but penalized and charged," Salapuddin said.

He said the government must explore and negotiate the opening of new labor markets for OFWs in Libya and other countries.

"The revealing and undeniable truth is our labor force needs jobs which our government is trying its best to provide locally. Many people are poor and hungry. In desperation, OFWs would prefer to take a job with risks abroad than stay hungry and jobless in our country," he said.

Earlier, it was reported that the OFWs were just awaiting their visas so they could leave this week for Iraq, where they will work in the US military's Camp Anaconda.

Abadia rap against him a 'cock and bull' story, says First Gentleman

By Armand N. Nocum

A "COCK and bull story" was First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's reaction to accusations that he had influenced Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo into reviving graft charges against former Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lisandro Abadia.

Arroyo, who returned from the United States yesterday, threatened to sue Abadia and this reporter for the article that came out in the Dec. 2, 2004, issue of the INQUIRER.

"It's so unfair. You know that that story is a cock and bull story and you still wrote about it," he said.

"I cannot influence the Ombudsman. I do not even know Garcia. Why will I even do that? That guy (Abadia) is crazy," Arroyo said.

He said Abadia should "stop blaming others who know nothing of the personal affairs of military officers" and to face the charges against him like a true gentleman.

Marcelo earlier this week ordered graft charges filed against Abadia for allegedly amassing P11 million in unexplained wealth during his term as AFP chief of staff from 1991 to 1993.

Abadia alleged in the INQUIRER report that Arroyo and Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes had influenced the Ombudsman into reviving the 11-year-old case against him to deflect attention from the ongoing investigation of former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia.

He claimed they were doing so for fear that Reyes, AFP chief of staff when Garcia was comptroller, would be dragged into the case of Garcia, who is being investigated for allegedly amassing P143 million in ill-gotten wealth.

Abadia alleged that Arroyo was very close to Marcelo, having been a partner in the Carpio Villaraza Cruz law offices, the First Couple's lawyers.

"They are putting me on the hot seat to cover up the Garcia issue," said Abadia.

Reyes and Marcelo, through Ombudsman spokesperson Ernesto Nocos, both denied Abadia's allegation.

Failing to contact Arroyo last Wednesday, the INQUIRER called his brother, Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo. The latter said Abadia had dreamed up the issue.

The Negros congressman said his brother did not meddle in the affairs of government and that "the President wants the case on Garcia to be pursued to the full extent of the law."

In a press statement issued by his office yesterday, Mike Arroyo said "it [served him] no purpose" to revive the graft case against Abadia.

"These accusations are baseless and irresponsible. The Ombudsman is a constitutional body with a clear mandate. It cannot be dictated [upon] by any person to file a case against anyone," he said.

Arroyo said he does not interfere with the affairs of the government run by his wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

He said he was "focusing time and effort on charitable missions that will address the plight of the poor."

Arroyo has just returned from a trip to the US on business for his charity work. He said he was there to ask the Filipino community to raise money and to solicit medical equipment for the Philippine General Hospital, the National Kidney Institute, the Ospital ng Maynila, the Malacañang Clinic and other health institutions. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Economic team revamp on hold

By G. Cabacungan

MALACAÑANG has reportedly put on hold the planned revamp of the government's top economic team in the wake of the calamities that have hit the country and pressing business matters that need to be tackled immediately.

A Malacañang source said President Macapagal-Arroyo had prevailed upon Energy Secretary Vince Perez and Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, the two economic managers most bruited about to be resigned from the Cabinet, to stay.

The source said Perez had handed his irrevocable resignation to the President a few weeks ago but the President did not accept his resignation. Perez did not reply to the INQUIRER's calls.

The source said the last thing the President needed was a change at the Department of Energy which is overseeing the sale of the P100 billion worth of assets of National Power Corp.

The source said the President had also asked Amatong to postpone her plans to retire to the first quarter of next year in view of the immediate concerns on getting Congress to approve new taxes as well as convincing major credit rating agencies to maintain the country's credit rating

Militiamen quit en masse

MIDSAYAP, North Cotabato—Low pay and assignments outside their villages here prompted about 40 paramilitary troops to resign en masse.

Mateo Liboon, 46, a leader of the local Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu), led about 40 militiamen in turning over the Garand and M-14 rifles issued to them to officials of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade.

Each militiaman receives a monthly allowance of P1,800 for 15 days of service as village defenders.

"But this is not enough and we were told a pay hike was out of the question," said Liboon, a farmer and father of six children.

"We are deployed in other villages and towns for 15 days and the next 15 days are slated for our farm work," he said.

Liboon said militiamen assigned to remote villages were not provided with travel allowances. "We spend our own money for food and travel," he said.

The sad thing, he said, was he could not leave his post in nearby towns if lawless elements attacked his own village.

"Sadly, we are supposed to be village defenders but we cannot defend our own barangay when it is harassed because we are deployed somewhere else," Liboon said. *Edwin G. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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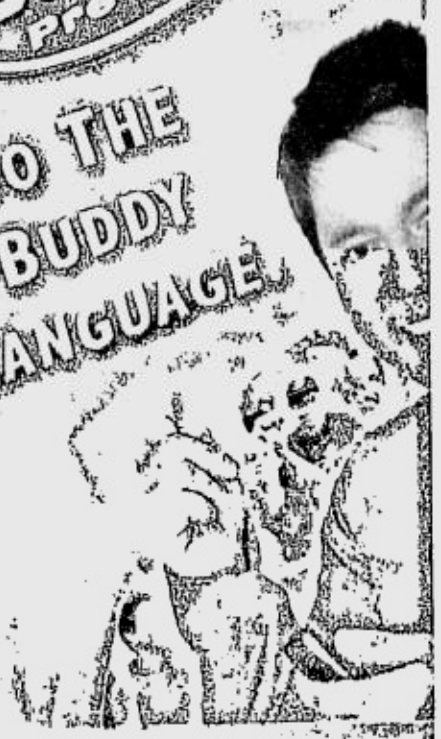

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Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 2157 & 5154, Series of 2004.

After students, teachers to be tested for illegal drug use

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

HERE'S one test teachers will have to take with their pupils.

Secretary Florencio Abad has created a committee in the Department of Education to draft the guidelines for the random drug tests to be conducted on the half-million public school teachers and administrative employees.

Abad said the guidelines should be ready by January.

The DepEd started randomly testing students for drug use in public and private high schools early this year.

Tests conducted in Metro Manila and Region XI confirmed that some high school students used illegal drugs.

Counseling

The students found to be using methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu and marijuana were not dismissed, however, but were made to undergo counseling.

Republic Act No. 9165, or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, mandates random drug tests on all government officials and employees.

The Dangerous Drugs Board set the guidelines to be followed by all national and local government agencies, including the police and military, as well as schools and universities in the conduct of the drug tests.

With half a million employees, the DepEd has the biggest manpower of all government agencies.

Abad named Undersecretaries Ramon Bacani and Jose Luis Gascon to head the committee that would draft the DepEd's guidelines.

Mandatory

Committee members are Director Thelma Santos of the DepEd's health and nutrition division, and representatives of the DepEd employees union, personnel department and teachers association.

According to the DDB, all government employees regardless of position must be tested.

Those who test positive in the first "screening" would undergo a second "confirmatory" test.

An employee confirmed to be a drug user would not immediately be reprimanded but would be made to undergo six months of rehabilitation or counseling, depending on the degree of drug use.

If the employee still tests positive after rehabilitation, he would either be suspended or dismissed.

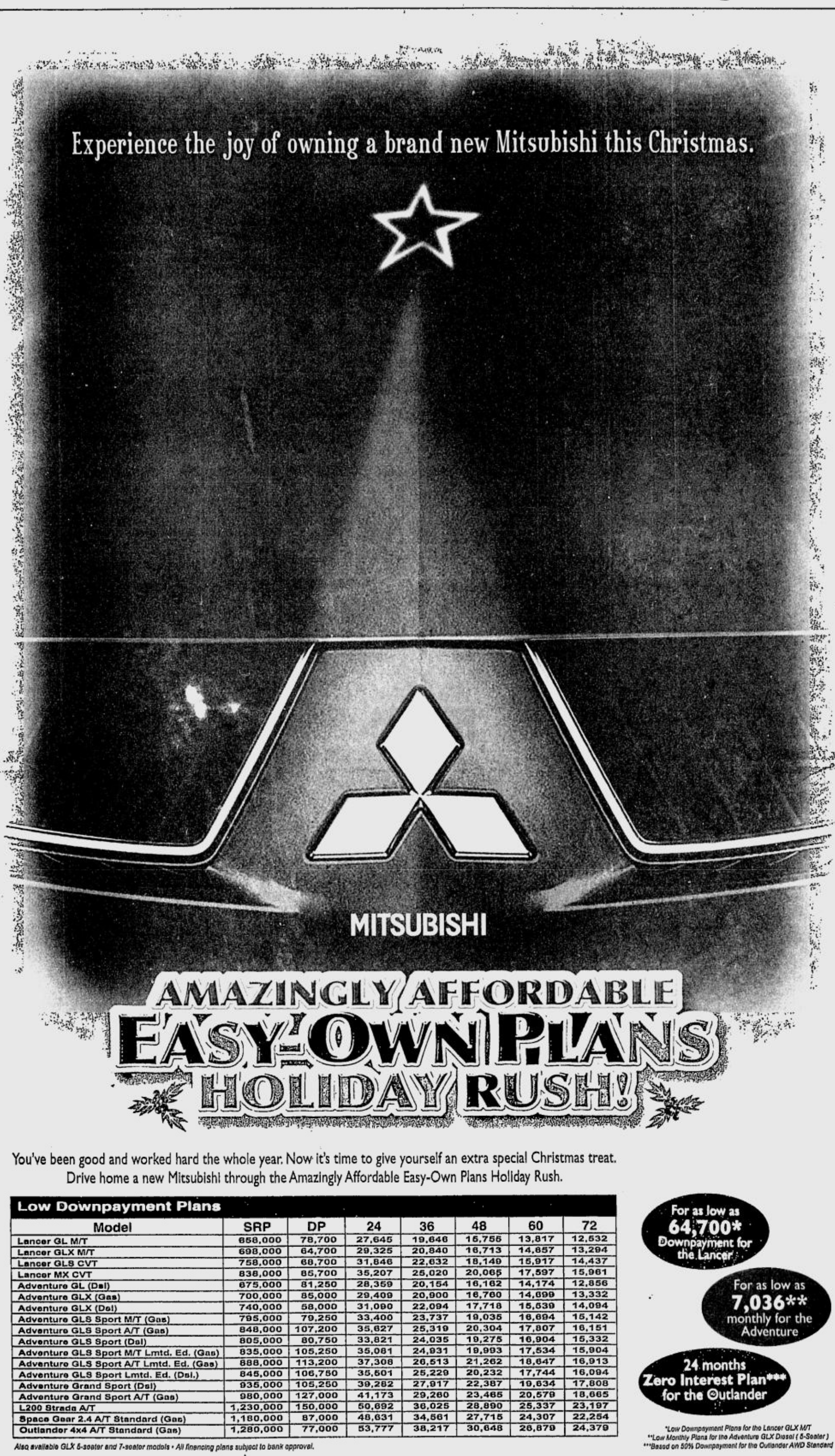
Confidential

The test results should remain confidential between the employee and the head of his department, according to the DDB.

The DDB said an employee could be subjected to a drug test for "probable cause," or if his behavior is suspect.

Employees with a history of drug abuse, pending drug cases and those in "high-risk positions" could also be subjected to drug tests.

The drug test would be a requisite for employment and a requirement for promotion, the DDB said.



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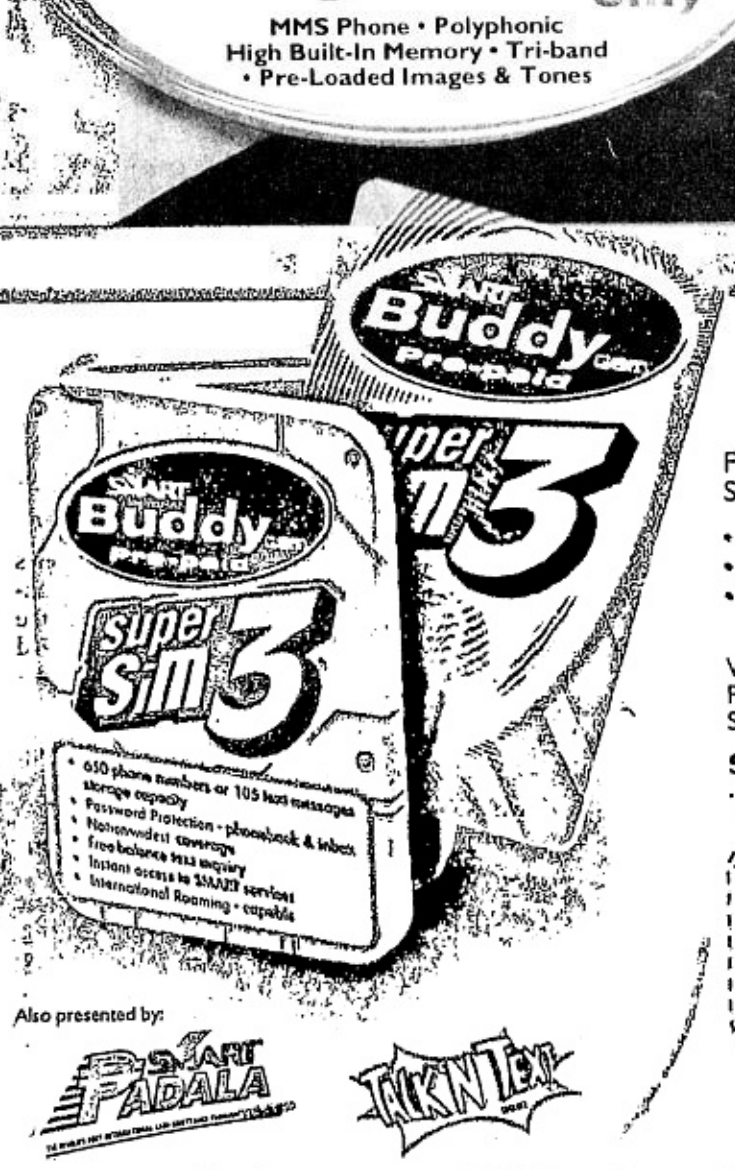

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Corpus: All-out war even against the powerful

From page A1

only to crack down on illegal logging but also to launch a massive, sustainable and community-based reforestation program nationwide.

"It will be an all-out war. *Malalaking troso ang babanggain natin dito* (We will be up against powerful people here)," Corpus said in a telephone interview.

Corpus said the two-pronged attack he envisioned would target "big time illegal loggers," on the one hand, and involve, on the other hand, a self-reliant reforestation program for upland communities, which might include areas under the influence of the communist New People's Army.

"It's a pro-people program and I don't see any reason why the NPAs will reject this. It is for their own good," said Corpus, an idealistic army lieutenant before he joined the rebel group early in his military career. Later, he switched loyalties again and returned to the military.

No one will be spared

He said past campaigns against illegal logging had failed because "those who are involved are in position, and that's a big obstacle to overcome."

"But the President has said that illegal logging would be classified as a heinous crime. That means *tamaan ang dapat tamaan, kahit sino pa sila* (hit those who need to be hit, regardless of who they are)."

President Macapagal-Arroyo named Corpus, a colorful if not a controversial military officer before he retired recently, as chair of the government-owned Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC).

Running after ex-comrades

Ms Arroyo also designated Corpus to lead the country's reforestation program. His task includes running after insurgents engaged in illegal logging.

The problem of illegal logging and denuded forests shot back into the limelight following the widespread flooding and deadly landslides caused by four successive tropical cyclones that pounded Luzon the past two weeks.

Ms Macapagal herself partly blamed the NPA for the rampant deforestation in Luzon.

NPA spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said politicians engaged in illegal logging and backed by the police and the military should take the blame.

Source of revolutionary tax

Corpus said the NPA also depended for funds on the revolutionary taxes they squeezed from illegal and legal loggers.

He said he was finalizing a draft reforestation program which would also address the problem of poverty, which has contributed to the rise of insurgency in the countryside.

Under the proposed project, Corpus said a government-supported reforestation program would be carried out in upland areas to be identified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Money can grow on trees

Families residing in the identified areas will be tasked to plant at least "1,000 trees per year" in a one-hectare area for a period of ten years, for instance, Corpus said.

The DENR will provide the technical skills, the seeds and documentation, while the local government unit will assist in terms of ensuring peace and order and issuing permits and other required documents.

In return for planting and nurturing the trees, the families will get a 70-percent share of all future proceeds in the sale of the logs upon harvest of the trees, Corpus said.

"Those who participate in the reforestation program will have the motivation to protect and nurture the trees," he said.

He said a proposed new corporation, to be named Philippine Forest Corp., would handle the marketing of all forest products from the reforestation program. He said the PFC would be under the now existing NRDC.

Room for bamboo

Corpus said the DENR would get 10 percent of the sales, while 10 percent would go to the local government units.

But it will not be "all trees" that will be planted, Corpus said.

"We will observe diversity, depend[illegible] on the area and the soil," he said.

[illegible] banks will be planted to bamboo because bamboo roots are known to prevent soil erosion, Corpus said.

The draft program will be presented to the Cabinet on Wednesday for approval, Corpus said.

TREES did not distinguish between the greedy and their victims. They fell full force on men and women along their path in Tignoan, Real, Quezon. Bodies were extricated from underneath the logs. AFP

Sex high . . .

From page A1

cantly improved," said Richard Suzman of the National Institute on Aging, which helped fund the study. "In the future, I predict that this approach will become an essential part of national surveys seeking to assess the quality of life."

For the study, David Schkade of the University of California in San Diego and colleagues at Princeton University, University of Michigan and elsewhere studied more than 900 women.

New method

Usually, people are asked about their feelings in general for questionnaires on mood.

The new method, called the Day Reconstruction Method, involves breaking the day into a sequence of episodes and rating each activity or moment as a kind of snapshot.

"Think of your day as a continuous series of scenes or episodes in a film. Give each episode a brief name that will help you remember it (for example, commuting to work, or having lunch with B)," the women were told.

The women rated each activity for positive and negative associations, with 6 as the strongest and 0 as the weakest.

Then the researchers analyzed the numbers.

"Grocery shopping and cleaning the house were rated lowest among 28 activities," the researchers wrote.

On average, the 900 women gave "Intimate relations" a positive score of 5.10, compared to 4.59 for socializing.

Housework scored 3.73, which was better at least than working at 3.62, and commuting with a lowly score of 3.45.

Friends won over kids

And who did the women prefer to be with? Friends clearly won out with a positive score of 4.36. Children landed in the middle, after relatives and spouses.

The boss scored just 3.52.

"When people are asked how much they enjoy spending time with their kids, they think of all the nice things—reading them a story, going to the zoo," said University of Michigan psychologist Norbert Schwarz, who worked on the study. "But they don't take the other times into account—the times when they are trying to do something else and find the kids distracting."

This new method creates a more accurate picture than asking people to generally report how much they like various activities, Schwarz said in a statement.

"Saying that you generally don't enjoy spending time with your kids is terrible, but admitting that they were a pain last night is quite acceptable," he said.

Sleep quality

Sleep quality had a large effect on the enjoyment of life, the researchers found. Women who slept poorly, on average, enjoyed their day as little as a typical person enjoyed commuting. Women who said they slept well enjoyed their day as much as most people enjoyed watching television.

And women who earned more were not necessarily happier, the survey found.

"Measures of wealth or health do not tell the whole story of how society as a whole, particular populations within it, are doing," said Princeton's Daniel Kahneman, who led the study. *Reuters*

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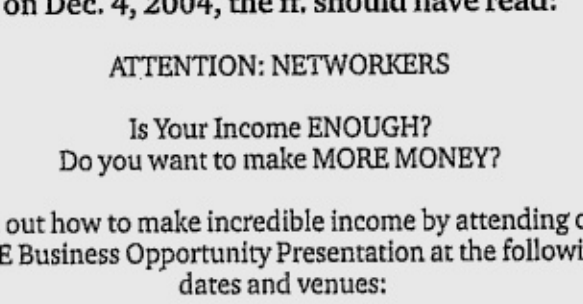

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CALTEX

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Cops probe threats vs Albay media men

By Job Belen
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Bicol police director Chief Supt. Restituto Mosqueda has ordered an investigation into threats reportedly received by Albay media practitioners critical of "jueteng" in the province.

At least six media men in Albay have received calls and text messages threatening them with bodily harm and even death for exposing the widespread operation of the illegal numbers game not only in the province but in the entire Bicol region.

First to receive death threats was Danny Calleja, a Manila Times correspondent and columnist of Dyaryong Bikol, a local weekly newspaper.

Calleja said he might have incurred the ire of gambling lords here when he asked a question on jueteng and illegal fishing of President Macapagal-Arroyo when she visited Albay on Oct. 30.

Nelson Arao of radio station dwRC said he received death threats through phone calls and text messages every time he attacked the illegal numbers game.

Bombo Radyo-Legazpi commentator Nelson Bulalacao said he also received death threats because of his commentaries on jueteng and illegal fishing.

Other media men who had received threats were Rhaydz Barcia of The Manila Times, Johnny Dematera, production manager of PBN Broadcasting Network based here, and this correspondent.

The threats ranged from "*bilang na ang araw mo* (your days are numbered)" to "*di ka na sisikatan ng araw* (you won't see the sunrise)."

The Albay-Legazpi Press Association Inc. (ALPA) warned reporters to be ready for anything.

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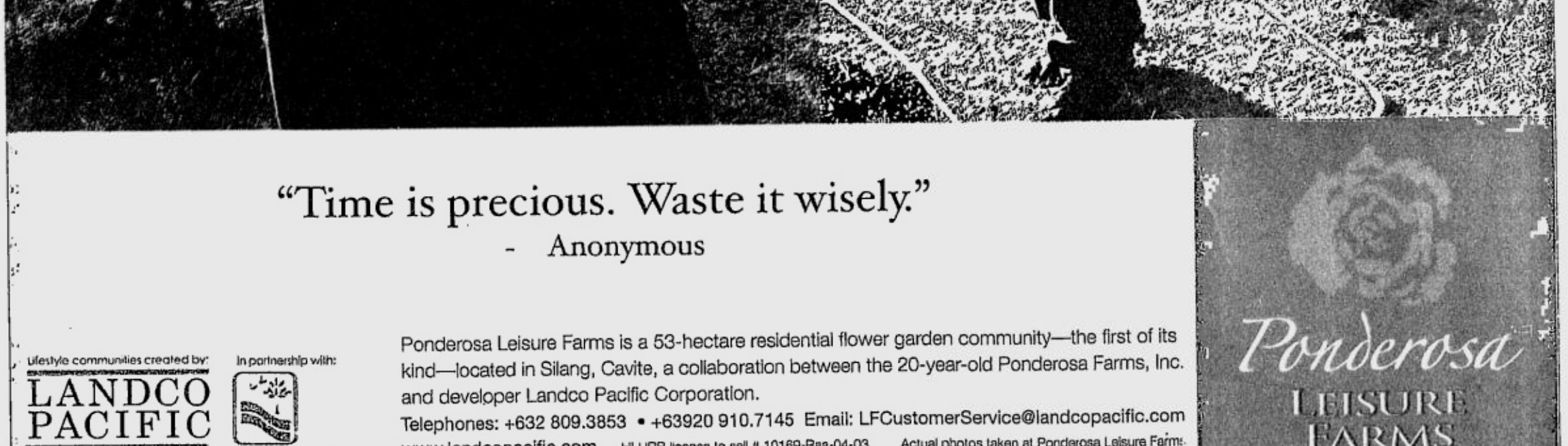


BEST COPY AVAILABLE

No more homes to return to, residents stream out of town

From page A1

week before it could clear the roads leading to Real of logs and mud.

Body count

The receding floodwaters were revealing more bodies, residents said. At least 1,000 people are believed dead from the flooding and landslides over the past two weeks.

Soldiers yesterday retrieved 73 more bodies in Infanta, Real and General Nakar, according to Col. Jaime Buenaflor, Army commander in the area.

But the death toll was expected to climb because those earlier listed as missing were "being transferred to the list of the dead," said Col. Elma Aldea, administrator of the Office of Civil Defense.

In a text message to the INQUIRER, Buenaflor said the number of recovered bodies was pegged at 561 as of 3 p.m. yesterday. He said 400 residents were still missing.

The airlift of relief goods stepped up yesterday, with a total of 25 planes shuttling between Villamor Air Base and the affected areas, Air Force spokesperson Lt. Col. Restituto Padilla Jr. said.

Padilla said a C-130 cargo plane brought relief goods to Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, one of the provinces hardest hit by Tropical Depression "Winnie."

He said Fort Magsaysay was also a collection area for relief goods for Aurora, Nueva Vizcaya and other typhoon-ravaged provinces in Northern Luzon.

GENTLY now, a soldier hands over an infant to his comrade on the safer side of a landslide site in storm-whipped Real town in Quezon on Friday, the day after "Winnie" had done its worst. AP

Living dangerously

"It's now dangerous to live in Dingalan," Taay said. "It's now like a big river. Everywhere there are dead trees, big rocks. The mud is all around. It's so surreal there."

Dingalan means "by the side of the River Galan," according to the accounts of the Dumagat, a Negrito tribe in Aurora. The town, a former sitio of San Luis, was founded on June 16, 1962, through Republic Act No. 3490.

Taay said he had moved his parents out of Barangay Paltic, the biggest village in Dingalan. He said the people there had no more homes to return to.

Like the other refugees, Taay and his parents walked to reach the Gabaldon boundary, where the bridge was destroyed by Typhoon "Violeta" two weeks ago and where people crossed over on improvised stilts difficult and dangerous to negotiate.

Taay said he had found his parents a house to rent in Cabanatuan and was returning soon to Dingalan.

He said his sister Sheila, a municipal councilor, had remained in Dingalan and was helping oversee the evacuation centers.

Of the homes in Paltic, Taay said: "Nothing can be salvaged anymore. Only the roofs are left."

More dead

One of the latest fatalities in Dingalan was Felicisima Delejero, 63, who on Nov. 29 told the INQUIRER that people were suffering the effects of logging.

After the landslides caused by Violeta buried her house in Purok Mahogany, Delejero returned to clear it of mud. But the landslides last Tuesday buried her and her home, Taay said.

According to radio reporter Ariel Avendano, residents of Paltic were angry at municipal social worker Edwina Miranda because she had allegedly insisted that evacuees return to the village.

Aurora Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo said 32 people died at the height of Winnie, raising the death toll in Dingalan to 70.

Parish priest Antonio Evangelio expressed concern for the safety of the Dumagat, saying more than 100 of them were either dead or missing.

Yesterday, Evangelio asked Army authorities in Fort Magsaysay to airlift 50 sacks of rice, canned goods and clothes solicited by the Prelature of Infanta from Caritas Manila and religious organizations.

Maj. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the 7th Infantry Division based in Fort Magsaysay, said relief goods were airlifted to Baler and Dingalan on Friday.

He said the goods intended for Dingalan, loaded in three six-by-six trucks, were now on the outskirts of Gabaldon.

"The [Department of Public Works and Highways] has begun repairing the bridge [in Cuyapa], and hopefully we can reach Dingalan either today (Saturday) or tomorrow (Sunday)," Tolentino told the INQUIRER by phone.

51 evac centers in 6 provinces

At least 34,658 families in 126 villages were directly affected by the landslides and floods in Aurora, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Pampanga, according to the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council in Central Luzon.

At least 17,152 people were in 51 evacuation centers in the six provinces.

Five more fatalities, mostly from drowning, were reported in Aurora, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

Damage to crops in Bulacan and Pampanga has reached P177 million, the RDCC said.

Central Luzon police director and RDCC chair Enrique Galang said 1,650 cavans of rice from the National Disaster Coordinating Council had been distributed since Friday to Representatives Pedro Pancho and Lorna Silverio of Bulacan, Aurelio Umali and Rodolfo Antonino of Nueva Ecija, Gov. Tomas Joson III of Nueva Ecija, and to the mayors of San Miguel in Bulacan, General Tinio in Nueva Ecija and Dingalan.

Rice distribution

Central Luzon police director and RDCC chair Enrique Galang said 1,650 cavans of rice from the National Disaster Coordinating Council had been distributed since Friday to Representatives Pedro Pancho and Lorna Silverio of Bulacan, Aurelio Umali and Rodolfo Antonino of Nueva Ecija, and to the mayors of San Miguel in Bulacan, General Tinio in Nueva Ecija and Dingalan.

Fr. Alfonso Saulo of the San Nicolas Cathedral also received 200 sacks of rice. *With reports from Fe Zamora in Manila; Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Reuters*

Pope expresses sadness for RP typhoon victims

POPE John Paul II has expressed "deep sadness" to Church leaders here for "the great loss of life caused by the typhoons and floods."

In a letter sent by Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano to Archbishop Fernando Capalla, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Pontiff extended his "sympathy to the civil and religious authorities and all affected by this disaster."

The Holy See is offering prayers for the victims and their families while praising the people involved in relief and rescue operations, said the letter that Capalla made public yesterday.

"I ask the Almighty God to grant peace and consolation to the homeless, the suffering and those involved in the difficult task of relief," Sodano quoted the Pope as saying.

Jerome Aning

General named 'ambassador' for donations

DEFENSE Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. yesterday named Maj. Gen. Glen Rabonza "ambassador at large" to follow up donation pledges from foreign countries for the typhoon victims.

"We have so many pledges, and we need a person to handle them," Cruz told reporters.

Rabonza is chief of the 8th Infantry Division based in Eastern Visayas. He will reach the mandatory retirement age of 56 next month.

Foreign aid has been pouring in for the typhoon victims. *(See story in Metro, Page A23.)*

In Iloilo, the Archdiocese of Jaro has called on its flock to help.

Msgr. Meliton Oso, executive director of the archdiocesan social action center, said priests of the archdiocese's 89 parishes had started collecting cash donations, food, used clothing, sleeping mats, medicine and eating utensils.

The call for donations will be aired over radio and TV in Iloilo and in the Sunday Masses, said Oso.

"In this hour of tragedy, let us offer a helping hand to our brothers and sisters in whatever way we can," he said. *Fe Zamora in Manila; Nestor P. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau*

How 'ro-ro' ship brought 1st batch of relief goods

From page A1

ous groups, Alcala had called on the owners of ships plying the sea off Quezon to "lend" their vessels for the purpose of transporting the collected donations.

"My wife, who was watching the program, told me about Congressman Alcala's call," engineer Adolfo Bartolata, technical manager of Philippine Nippon Kyoie Corp., told the INQUIRER.

He said he relayed Alcala's request to the company's main office in Manila, which in turn passed it on to Arturo Yan, the Hong Kong-based ship owner.

Yan immediately called back and instructed the company's Manila office to grant the request.

"For a humanitarian cause, let's do it," Bartolata quoted Yan as saying.

When Bartolata contacted Alcala to relay Yan's go-signal, the lawmaker said he would shoulder the cost of the 1,200 liters of diesel oil that would be needed for the voyage.

"There was no other monetary consideration involved. The use of the ship was for free," Bartolata said.

Enthusiastic response

Arnel Avila, host of the "Pagusapan Natin" program aired over cable STV6, broke the news that the Grandstar 2—which plies the Atimonan to Alabat island route—would transport relief goods for free.

He was overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response from the public.

"I really did not anticipate it," he said of the calls from various organizations inquiring about the voyage.

He said the bulk of the assorted goods that filled up three trucks was collected through his program alone.

Avila said 36 police trainees from Camp Nakar and a number of civilian volunteers helped pack the canned goods, noodles, rice, sugar and coffee, among many other items.

Most of the donated goods were transported directly to Infanta.

The Quezon-based Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, also converted its cramped office in Lucena into another collection center for donations.

Main focus

Asis Perez, Tanggol Kalikasan director and lawyer, said the group had temporarily cast aside its militancy in advocating environmental protection.

"The pressing need of the moment is to help each other, to alleviate the pitiful plight of the people in north Quezon. That's our main focus at present," he said.

Tanggol Kalikasan was also able to fill three trucks with assorted food items, Perez said.

Collective support

He said business establishments and civic groups in Lucena—the Rotary Club of Lucena South, the local branch of Metrobank, the Mirant Pagbilao power plant, the Quezon Capitol Rural Bank, the Gemini Bakery, among many other entities—contributed to the relief drive.

Alcala, who had initiated the humanitarian voyage, was not part of the journey.

When contacted for an interview, he politely declined credit and said: "What is taking place is the collective expression of support from Quezonians to other Quezonians in distress. Bayanihan is an inherent trait of my provincemates."

A 12-member mountaineering group from Tayabas, Quezon, joined the voyage.

Protestant Pastor Noel Suministrado, the group leader, said they would climb to the upper villages to look for more survivors.

They walked slowly to safety, avoiding bodies along the way

From page A1

beach. Outside, the sea swelled and the waves raged.

The huddled hungry

Maribeth's father, Eutiquio Amida, was already at the school. He had gathered his family composed of his wife Mila, their children and grandchildren, his sister Pacencia, her children and grandchildren. All 16 of them were huddled together to keep warm. They were wet, thirsty and hungry.

"Although the school was the only structure that remained standing, I noticed that soft mud had accumulated in the building. I was afraid the structure would collapse with another flash flood or worse, a tidal wave," Eutiquio said.

For two days, the Amida family and other evacuees stayed in the school.

"We had no food or clean water. The children kept crying. I was worried for my daughter Maribeth and her cousin's wife Rita. They were both pregnant and due to deliver any time," Eutiquio narrated.

'Will we die?'

On Tuesday evening, his grandson Christian could no longer contain his fear and asked: "*Lolo* (Grandpa), if another typhoon comes, will we die "

"My grandson heard about super Typhoon 'Yoyong' on the radio, that it could be more destructive than Winnie. This frightened him a lot," Eutiquio said.

"*Lolo, alis na po tayo. Natatakot na po ako* (Grandpa, let us leave this place. I am scared)," Eutiquio quoted his grandson as saying.

The whole family decided to leave the school building and head for Barangay Tanauan in Real. They chose to pass through Sitio Walingwaling in Barangay Malapad. It was the best route, the elders decided, because they would avoid walking through mudslides and deep ravines.

Two-day trek

On Wednesday, at 5 a.m., the 16 members of the Amida family started their two-day trek through mud, fallen trees and rocks. It was worse for the pregnant Maribeth and Rita.

"While walking through mud, we passed by several dead bodies. Worse, they had started to smell," Maribeth narrated.

When they reached Barangay Tignoan, they were met by soldiers who advised them to go back and take shelter in any building. But the Amida family decided to push on, despite the thickening mud which was now a mixture of sharp rocks and pieces of wood which cut through their skin.

"We were bleeding but nobody complained. We continued our walk," Eutiquio said.

Good to be alive

By nightfall, they reached Sitio Walingwaling. "We spent the night crammed in an abandoned shelter," he said.

The following morning, the group resumed its trek despite continuous rains and howling winds hoping to reach higher ground before Yoyong struck land.

On Thursday, at dusk, they arrived at Sitio Sadin, Barangay Tanauan in Real.

On Friday, the Amida family reached the national road which, mercifully, had been spared from the landslides and where transportation was available.

This time, the air smelled sweet. It was good to be alive.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Indian model for 'zero waste' tourism in RP pushed

By Jerome Aning

AN ENVIRONMENTAL expert wants Philippine hotels and resorts to be at the forefront of the country's "zero waste" campaign not only to keep tourist sites productive but to preserve the environment.

"Pollution and garbage are a real turn-off to tourists and even to local residents. Waste-free tourism will certainly do well for the environment and assist in attracting more people, both local and foreign tourists, in patronizing the country's tourist destinations," Chelaton Jayakumar, an Indian conservationist told Filipino tourism industry managers in a recent forum.

Jayakumar, an official of the Thanal Conservation Action and Information Network, cited India's "zero waste" approach to tourism in a forum organized by the Department of Tourism in coordination with the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives and Greenpeace International.

Thanal is a nongovernment organization based in India's southwestern state of Kerala engaged in environment preservation. Jayakumar is a member of Thanal's steering committee, co-chair of its pesticide working group and a participant in the community monitoring working group.

Thanal and other NGOs spearheaded a massive zero-waste project to help restore the popularity of Kovalam, a popular tourist attraction in Kerala that suffered degeneration after becoming a virtual dumping ground of waste left behind by visitors.

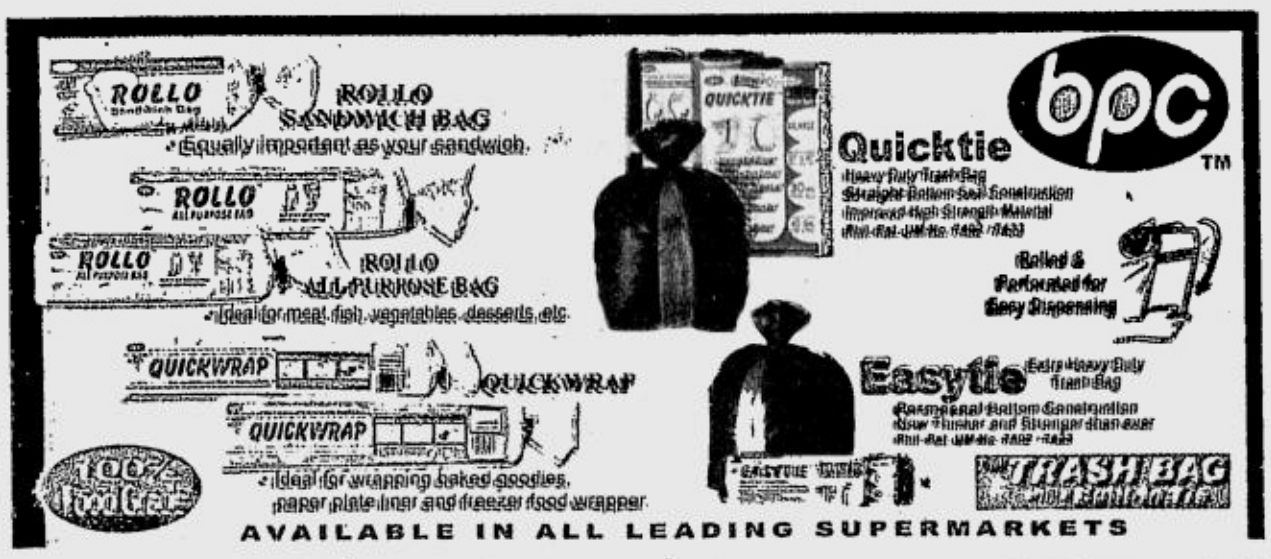
Over the past 30 years, millions of tourists had flocked to Kovalam's scenic 23 km-long beach. During that period, the site's 47 hotels, 72 lodges, 44 restaurants and 350 commercial shops produced tons of garbage that caused a serious waste management problem.

Jayakumar said the zero waste process Thanal advocated for Kerala was an ethical, economical and efficient way of looking at materials use that eliminated the concept of waste.

The Zero Waste Kovalam Project *(See more details at www.zerowastekovalam.org)* included the phasing out of plastics and the use of environment-friendly materials, controlled dumping, chemical-free farming, water conservation and environmental awareness.

Soda and bottled water companies and food manufacturers were encouraged to collect all used tin cans, plastic bottles and styrofoam for recycling.

Kovalam's tourism sector now segregates biodegradable and non-biodegradable items and has a resource recovery center for recycling.



Test for coliform in Leyte Gulf 'inconclusive'

By Jerome Aning

TOURISM Secretary Joseph Ace Durano yesterday allayed fears that the waters of the Lingayen Gulf were contaminated with the coliform bacteria, saying the results of recent tests were inconclusive.

Durano said that findings purportedly showing that the gulf was contaminated with the coliform bacteria, which causes waterborne and digestive ailments, were inconclusive since only one sampling was conducted.

Durano quoted Department of Health regional director Eduardo Janairo as saying that only one sampling for coliform in 21 sites in La Union and Bolinao, Pangasinan, was done.

Janairo, he said, stressed that the local media picked up on the results of the tests without elaborating on the procedure and the methodology used.

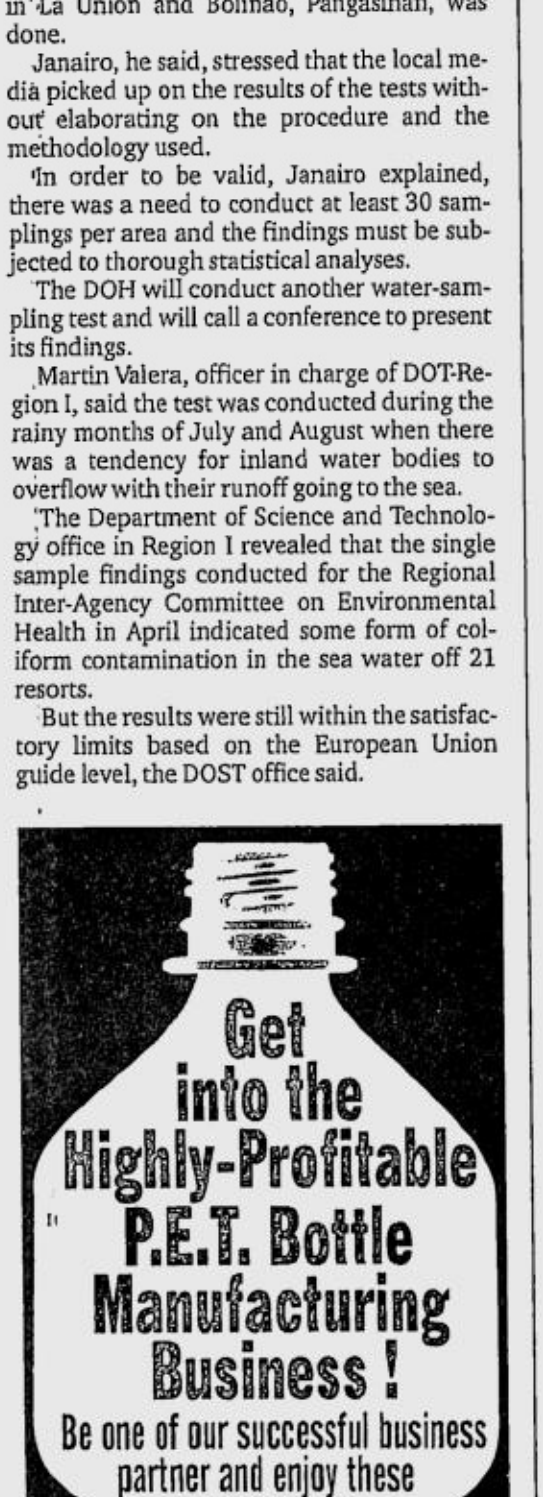
In order to be valid, Janairo explained, there was a need to conduct at least 30 samplings per area and the findings must be subjected to thorough statistical analyses.

The DOH will conduct another water-sampling test and will call a conference to present its findings.

Martin Valera, officer in charge of DOT-Region I, said the test was conducted during the rainy months of July and August when there was a tendency for inland water bodies to overflow with their runoff going to the sea.

The Department of Science and Technology office in Region I revealed that the single sample findings conducted for the Regional Inter-Agency Committee on Environmental Health in April indicated some form of coliform contamination in the sea water off 21 resorts.

But the results were still within the satisfactory limits based on the European Union guide level, the DOST office said.



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

'Orange Revolution' wins as Ukraine to hold new vote

KIEV—Ukraine's Supreme Court ruled Friday that contested presidential elections were tainted by fraud and must be repeated, handing a historic victory to pro-Western opposition forces challenging a ruling establishment beholden to Moscow since Soviet times.

"We order the central election commission to set a date for a new runoff vote... from Dec. 5, 2004 in accordance with the law," the court's chief justice Anatoly Yarema announced.

"The court decision is final and cannot be appealed," he said, reading from the ruling.

A representative of pro-Western opposition leader and presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko said the law stipulated that a vote must take place three weeks from the date announced by the court, or Dec. 26.

The hero of the hour hailed hundreds of thousands of his supporters in Kiev's central Independence Square.

"The decision was taken thanks to you, you are heroes," he said to deafening cheers and a veritable sea of orange flags, his campaign color after the court decision was broadcast live on national television and radio.

"We're going to have awesome fireworks tomorrow," he said.

"This is a huge victory for all those people who have been standing out on the square," said a Yushchenko spokesperson, Nikolai Katerinchuk, referring to the tens of thousands of opposition protesters who have camped out in the streets of the capital since the contested Nov. 21 vote.

The United States and the European Union, which backed Yushchenko's claims, immediately welcomed the court ruling.

"The court's decision is an important step in moving toward a peaceful, democratic resolution that reflects the will of the people," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who has been to Ukraine to try to resolve the crisis, appealed to everyone "in Ukraine to fully cooperate (with) the decision of the court with a view to holding free, fair and transparent elections."

The Nov. 21 runoff vote pitted Western-leaning Yushchenko against the pro-Russia Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich.

The election commission said results showed that the ruling party candidate had won the vote, but Yushchenko refused to concede, claiming the government helped rig the vote to steal the election.

Yanukovich and outgoing President Leonid Kuchma, who had anointed him as successor to his 10-year rule, had yet to comment on the ruling late Friday. But the prime minister's supporters slammed the verdict.

"The court... effectively played a political role," said Stepan Gavrich, a Yanukovich representative. It "even went beyond the plaintiff's appeal... (that) did not ask for another runoff vote, but had asked to annul results," Interfax quoted him as saying.

Kuchma on Thursday met Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and both leaders made clear afterwards that they opposed a re-run only of the Yushchenko-versus-Yanukovich contest, favoring instead a repeat of the entire election process—a plan vehemently opposed by the opposition.

Outside the court house, several thousand opposition supporters erupted in cheers, tears and emotional hugs as they listened to the court's ruling on transistor radios pressed to their ears. *AFP*

KIEV celebrates after the Supreme Court decision. AP

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- Cannedgoods
- Mineral water
- Sugar
- Iodized salt
- Rice

Non-Food:
- Blankets and mats
- Kitchen utensils
- Laundry and bath soap
- Mosquito nets
- Slippers
- Clothes
- Candles, matches, flashlight
- Water Container (Jerry Cans)

Medicines:
- Vitamin C, Oral Rehydration Salts, Water Purifying Tablets, Paracetamol

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Catholic Media Network Office, Xavier House No. 2307 Pedro Gil, Sta. Ana, Manila
Contact Persons: Fr. Francis Lucas or Mr. Sanny Jegillos (IRDC)
Tel Nos.: 563-7321, 563-7313, 564-4480
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WorldBriefs

Blast shakes Baghdad

BAGHDAD—A powerful blast shook central Baghdad on Saturday and a thick column of black smoke rose from near the Green Zone complex housing the interim Iraqi government and embassies, witnesses said. They said the explosion, which occurred outside a police station next to a main entrance to the Green Zone, was possibly caused by a car bomb. Heavy machinegun fire echoed from the site of the blast immediately afterwards. There were no immediate reports of any casualties. *Reuters*

Rumsfeld to stay

WASHINGTON—Donald Rumsfeld has agreed to stay on as defense secretary at US President George W. Bush's request, a senior administration official said Friday on condition he not be named. "The president and secretary Rumsfeld spoke on Monday, the president asked him to stay, the secretary agreed, and the president is very pleased," the official said. "This is a time of real challenge. We are waging a war against terror, and at this critical juncture secretary Rumsfeld is the right person for this position," the official said. Rumsfeld would appear to be one of the few members of Bush's cabinet to survive the overhaul that has followed the president's re-election victory on Nov. 2. *AFP*

Big chill from warming

WASHINGTON—Global warming could lead to a big chill in the North Atlantic, at least if history is anything to go by, researchers reported on Friday. They published evidence to support a popular theory that rising temperatures caused a big melt of polar ice 8,200 years ago, causing a freshwater flood into the salty North Atlantic. This would have changed the flow of the balmy Gulf Stream and in just a few years, average temperatures plummeted, ushering in a deep freeze that lasted a century or more, researchers have proposed. Writing in the Dec. 11 issue of Geophysical Research Letters, Torbjorn Tornqvist, an assistant professor of earth and environmental sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago, says he has evidence that this happened. "Few would argue it's the most dramatic climate change in the last 10,000 years," Tornqvist said in a statement. "We're now able to show the first sea-level record that corresponds to that event." Tornqvist and some graduate students found the evidence along the Gulf of Mexico off the southern US coast. They found peat deposits that would have been formed under rising sea levels. Working with researchers in the Netherlands, they dated the material to 8,200 years ago. Their composition suggested they were made when a saltwater marsh was abruptly flooded and turned into a lagoon. *Reuters*

Chile torture victims

SANTIAGO—A score of former political Chilean prisoners who say they were tortured under Augusto Pinochet's regime on Friday accused the former dictator and his interior minister, their lawyers said. Charges were filed at a Santiago court of appeals five days after publication of a report on tortures under Pinochet's military rule, which lasted from 1973 and 1990. A commission headed by Roman Catholic Bishop Sergio Valech prepared the report from 35,000 accounts on the use of rape, electricity, burns, faked executions and other forms of torture. Pinochet's interior minister, Sergio Fernandez, was also accused. *AFP*

Thai jail scandal

BANGKOK—A Thai convict serving six years for theft raided more than 100 homes in a one-man crime wave after bribing prison guards to let him in and out of jail, according to newspaper reports and officials Saturday. Wittayakorn Arunpas sped away on a motorcycle rented from guards at Nong Khai jail, northeast Thailand, bribed his way back in and then allowed officers first refusal for goods from his hauls, according to reports. The scandal came to light after he was arrested on Wednesday. Three prison officials have been sacked with another eight under investigation, according to The Nation newspaper. *AFP*

'Cali Cartel' kingpin sent to US on drug charges

BOGOTA, Colombia—The former boss of the Cali drug cartel, who once controlled most of the world's cocaine trade, was sent to the United States on Friday to face trafficking and money laundering charges.

Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, 65, was one of the last of Colombia's legendary outlaws to run the cocaine business from jungle laboratories to foreign distribution. He is the highest-profile criminal ever extradited from this Andean country to the United States.

Authorities said Rodriguez Orejuela, known in the 1980s and early 1990s as the "Chess Player" for his ability to outwit police, continued to run his empire from jail after his 1995 arrest and after a ban on extradition was lifted two years later.

But on Friday evening he was escorted, handcuffed and wearing a bullet-proof jacket, by heavily armed police to a Bogota police airport and handed to US Drug Enforcement Administration officers.

He was put on a Miami-bound plane about two weeks after US President George W. Bush visited Colombia to solidify his alliance with President Alvaro Uribe against "narcoterrorists."

Rodriguez Orejuela faces drug trafficking and money laundering charges in Miami, where he was indicted as part of Operation Cornerstone, a federal investigation that began in 1991 and resulted in the seizure of nearly 50,000 kilos of cocaine and $15 million in US currency.

"Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela is alleged to have trafficked in illegal drugs that tear at the fabric of society and draw the innocent away from safe and productive lives," US Attorney General John Ashcroft said in a written statement.

Rodriguez Orejuela faces life in prison. He was scheduled for his first appearance in a US federal court on Monday.

OREJUELA REUTERS

"This is a watershed moment in our nation's war against drugs," said Marcos Daniel Jimenez, the US Attorney in Miami whose office will prosecute Rodriguez Orejuela.

The arrest of Rodriguez Orejuela and his brother Miguel in 1995 was touted as a big victory in the war on drugs but had little effect on the market.

The gray-haired Rodriguez Orejuela, now a grandfatherly figure given to wearing Lacoste sweaters, is a relic of Colombia's hyper-violent 1980s and 1990s cocaine trade when public figures, including a top presidential candidate, were routinely murdered for threatening cocaine interests.

"This extradition is a sign of the maturation of Colombia's political system," said Michael Shifter, a senior fellow at Washington think tank Inter-American Dialogue.

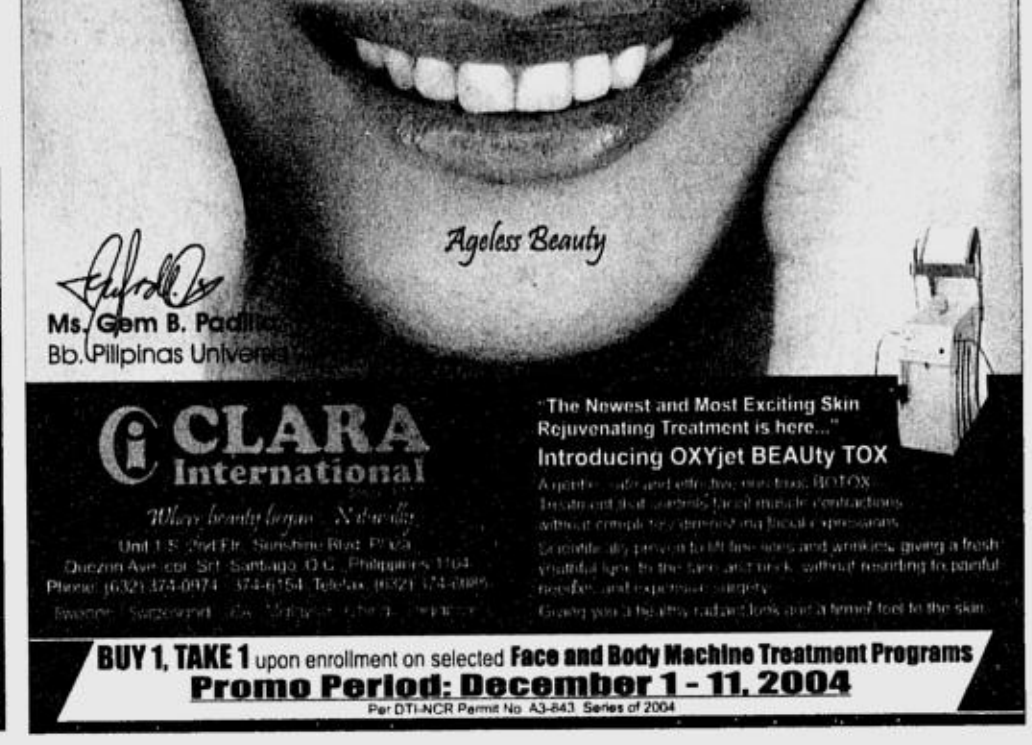
Uribe has increased extraditions during his more than two years in power. His tough security policies have reduced violence associated with the country's 40-year-old guerrilla war involving Marxist rebels and far-right paramilitaries, both of which are linked to the cocaine business.

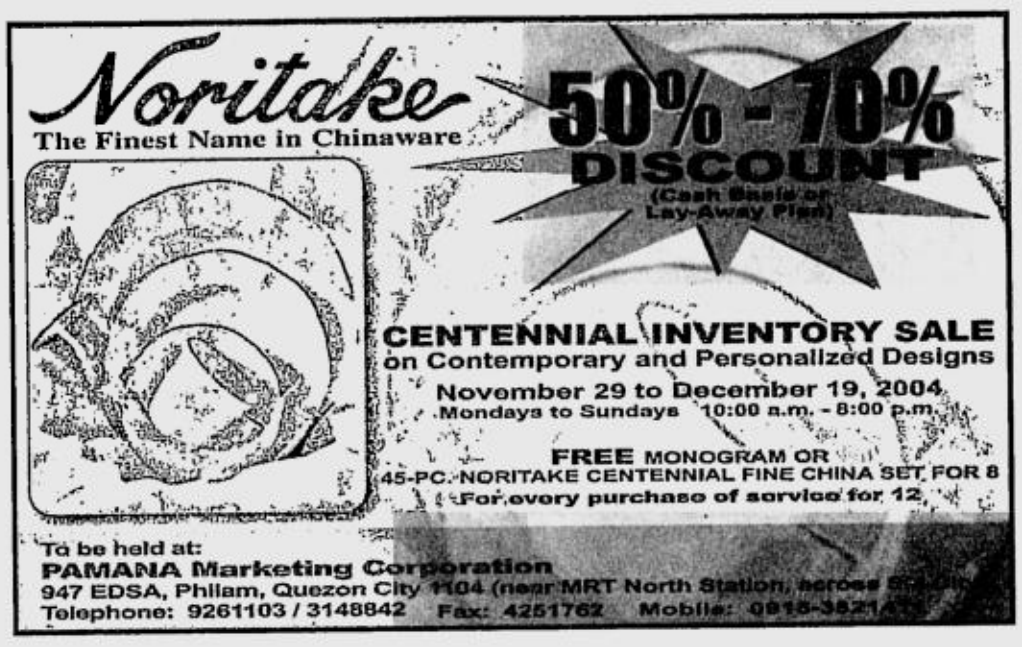
Washington has poured more than $3 billion over the past four years into Plan Colombia, which funds the chemical defoliation of coca fields and other antidrug measures. Bush pledges continued support.

Rodriguez Orejuela spent four months out of jail in late 2002 and early 2003 after a judge reduced his 15-year sentence for good behavior. Police soon picked him up on fresh charges of trafficking drugs to Florida in the early 1990s.

The drug king sounded resigned in a recent interview with a Colombian magazine, saying: "I have found a certain internal peace. My only worry is for my family. My destiny is in the hands of God."

His brother Miguel is in a Colombian jail. The brothers took near control of Colombia's cocaine industry after police gunned down rival drug lord Pablo Escobar in 1993. *Reuters*





Somewhere between insomnia and breakfast.

The phone rang and a hand found its way out from under the sheets, groping for the receiver. "Hi Charisse!" said a voice too cheerful to sound like 4AM. Charisse cleared her throat underneath the pillow and put on her smiley voice. "Good morning Mrs. Villa. How may I help you?"

For the next twenty minutes, Mrs. Villa discussed her finances, the status of her accounts, the latest rates, how her portfolio was doing. Charisse, wide awake now, jotted down notes, and responded equally quick. "Yes, Mrs. Villa. Of course we'll do that." Or alternately "I'll get back to you on that as soon as I check some figures."

It wasn't some emergency financial crisis that was being put to rest here. Or the whim of some obsessive-compulsive business mogul. It was just a normal bank transaction.

Or at least what passed as such for Mrs. Villa, a certified insomniac. Charisse was used to it by now and was recognized, jokingly, as the bank's Banking In Bed specialist. And in some strange way, had grown to like the early morning talks. It got her up early. And always gave her time for breakfast.

"Oh, and Charisse, I have no idea where to find a prom date for Julie. Do you think you could help me out with that, too?"

"Julie's a pretty girl, Mrs. Villa. I'd worry more about her dress than her date."

"You're right of course. Did you get the instructions I left yesterday? The one about the time deposit?"

"Yes ma'am. Our messenger picked it up first thing yesterday."

"Hay naku. I wouldn't know what to do without you, Charisse."

"It's no problem at all, Mrs. Villa. No problem at all." The conversation had wound down to stretch marks and the quest for wrinkle prevention when a stifled yawn came from Mrs. Villa's end of the line.

"Sounds like you need to get some rest, Mrs. Villa. And I need to start getting ready for work anyway."

"Of course. Sorry I talk so much. You have a good day, Charisse. Good morning!"

"And good night to you, Mrs. Villa."

Charisse stretched, smiled, and figured it would be a sinangag and danggit kind of day.

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ISSN 0116-2642 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 19 No. 361

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OPINION

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8800 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

100% soy ink

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
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Things to do

EDITORIAL

WE have often chided the President for issuing laundry lists of things to do during moments of national import, instead of offering the nation a bold, inspiring vision. But in this time of calamity, such a list is exactly what we need from President Macapagal-Arroyo, a list of steps to take—immediately or in the next few weeks—to hasten the country's recovery from the natural disasters of the last two weeks.

Her appeal to the people to unite in the face of the recent tragedies is timely, but in itself it is not enough. This is in part because the over-simplifications that drive political rhetoric are already hard at work. A mere two days after typhoon "Yoyong" exited, it has become conventional wisdom to blame both the practice of illegal logging and the New People's Army for the floods and the landslides.

The truth is much more complicated than that. Both illegal loggers and the NPA (the government says the communist rebels are illegal loggers themselves) bear part of the blame. But commercial or legal logging is not without fault, either. And some local politicians and businessmen helped create the conditions on the ground that aggravated the disasters.

If the over-simplifications drive post-disaster policy, then the government cannot hope to stop similar tragedies in the future.

There is a pressing need, then, to find out exactly what happened. This pursuit of the truth will take time; judging from sorry experience, a whole lot of time, because every other senator and congressman and executive official would want to have his say, preferably before the cameras.

But we cannot afford to be distracted from the tasks at hand; that is why the entire country needs to focus on the immediate and the near term, and that is where the President's laundry list comes in.

The most immediate items on that to-do list concern rescue and relief operations:

1. The spell of good weather between the last typhoon and the next "low-pressure" disturbance should not distract the government and the non-government organizations it is working with from continuing with the rescue attempts; there may yet be victims who survived the mudslides that overtook a portion of Dumingan town in Aurora and killed a hundred, for instance. In the one or two days left before the onset of another storm, rescue must be the undisputed first priority.

2. A close second would be relief. It is critical that the flow of relief materials continues, but it is crucial that the relief centers in the calamity areas must be made safe and secure. The worst thing that can happen in the next few days is for another evacuation center to collapse. (The one at Real cost over a hundred lives.) If any such center is at risk, the evacuees and the relief materials must be moved to a safer place. But such centers are at risk also from the outbreak of diseases. It is imperative that, for the sake of the living, the dead must be immediately buried. And that hygiene standards must be, however heroically, maintained.

In the next week or so, the President must also insist on temporary measures that will help prevent similar tragedies or help account for last week's. These initiatives may include the following:

3. The meteorological agency Pagasa should fill in the gaps in its forecasting ability by increasing frequency and forging short-term linkages with institutions that have advance equipment. What is to prevent Pagasa, for instance, from supplementing its three daily forecasts with, say, updates from CNN or Nasa, properly attributed and qualified?

4. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources should identify all the Timber License Agreements, Industrial Tree Plantation Lease Agreements, Industrial Forest Management Agreements, and Socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreements that awarded logging concessions in Aurora and Quezon.

5. The Department of Defense should begin a comprehensive review of the government's disaster-management plans, in particular, to explore better ways of coordinating with NGOs and other civil-society groups which take disaster-preparedness seriously.

And so on and so forth. In helping the storm-struck stand on their own feet again, the government must be specific and time-bound about its short-term goals—before the deluge of politics swamps us again.

Is the Filipino worth dying for?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

"Is the Filipino worth dying for?" my son Caloy asked me one day. I said, "Yes, of course," almost automatically. He reacted with a quizzical smile, as if I was bluffing or lying. That needed an explanation.

I was not bluffing or lying. I was generalizing. Filipinos in general are worth dying for. I am not ashamed of them nor do I disown them. Our race is honored by the past, tested by the present, and if it manages its current problems, will conquer the future. Our people are not the misbegotten of the earth.

Yet this principle is not absolute. For every rule, there is an exception that makes the rule. On the question we are pondering, there are so many exceptions that they practically make the rule.

So when is the Filipino not worth dying for?

Ferdinand Marcos was a Filipino who betrayed his country. His despotic reign for more than 14 years reduced the Philippines to the tail-ender in Asia from its former leading and promising status. He debased freedom, scorned human rights, and plundered the national treasury. His death was worth dying for.

Those corrupt and greedy generals are not worth dying for. They deserve the condemnation of the nation they have robbed blind. Their wives who are their partners in crime should also be denounced and punished. They are imitators of the conjugal regime that despoiled our country during martial law.

And so too should we spurn that PMA valedictorian who brought shame upon his people and wrecked his own future with a petty theft. Like many of his shady superior officers, he has tarnished the gleaming record of the PMA as the breeding ground of honest and intelligent patriots sworn to defend the land with their dedicated lives.

That Filipino lad who murdered his parents and sister in Australia defies belief and disdains compassion. He slew his own blood and kin to claim their wealth, part of which was already potentially his. He was not only evil but also stupid. He is part of the blot in our nation that should be cleansed and permanently erased.

And let us not exempt the shameless congressmen whose attachment to the pork barrel is as muggy as their greed. At a time when the country is beset more than ever before with a financial crisis that only the president casually ignores, their avarice disgraces the whole Congress and demands their summary and irrevocable eviction.

The misfits in the Senate are also not worth dying for. Those who elected them deserve the same harsh judgment. They have dishonored that once august chamber where once trod the great statesmen of our country. Not even good at their original occupation as B actors, these new senators are still acting as comedians in their now serious role, and at public expense.

The President of the Philippines is not worthy of her position. She won it by dancing in ethnic costume, distributing goodies among the voters, and some say by cheating. She is now rewarding her supporters by appointing them to choice positions, like the one she gave a retired solon who did nothing during his two terms in the Senate.

She has also demeaned the country by acting as if we were still a colony of the United States, with her as viceroy. Many would not die for her but would rather impeach her.

And there are many ordinary others who, although Filipinos, are not worth dying for.

Among the scoundrels are the jeepney driver who loads or unloads in the middle of heavy traffic and claims, *"Naghahanap-buhay lamang,"* which may excuse also the thief and the embezzler who are likewise working at their trade; the mulcting cop who specializes in daily graft or major extortions for the support of his several live-in partners and their respective breeds; the priest who sexually harasses parishioners and, in a show of crocodile tears or unrepentant piety, publicly prays for absolution by the cover-up hierarchy; the judge who renders a crooked decision purchased by the winning party or delays a conviction for the benefit of a paying accused; the drug dealer who has infected the whole country, especially the youth, with his malevolence and deadly rapacity; the vandal who mars newly-painted walls with senseless and ugly graffiti that have made Metro Manila a veritable skid row; and many other scalawags who have given the unfair impression that the Filipino is not worth dying for.

For all their wide disrepute, they constitute only a small minority of the 86 million Filipinos who lead honorable lives, fear and revere God, love their families, observe their civic duties, assert and protect their rights, and cherish nature and all its bounties. These are the Filipinos worth dying for.

Advent reminders

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

I HAVE often wondered why surgeons, after scrubbing, would enter the operating room with both hands raised toward their faces. There must be a medical reason for doing this. And maybe a psychological reason, too. Can you imagine the threatening look of a surgeon if he entered the OR with two hands raised like claws toward the patient, with mask and all?

* * *

The Gospel today (Mt. 3, 1-12) speaks about John the Baptist who threatened the self-righteous and complacent Pharisees and Saducees with his courageous proclamation of the truth. He did not mince words. He did not care who got hurt in the process, even if he was the one who was hurt and killed in the end. We need in our present day and time John the Baptists who are not afraid to stand up against people who have become so thick-faced and complacent in their evil ways and means. As in John the Baptist's time, a change of heart is also the call of our times.

* * *

The recent typhoons were Advent reminders for preparation and conversion. I hope that the selfish, filthy rich who have enriched themselves by illegal means were moved with sorrow and repentance as they watched on television, inside the comfort of their air-conditioned homes, the plight of our suffering, hungry, homeless people. How many people are suffering this very moment because the selfish rich abused the natural resources of our country? How many people are suffering this very moment because the filthy rich pocketed the money that was meant for them? More than the feel-good donations and the much publicized visits and relief operations, the Lord asks a change of heart and a radical conversion.

* * *

As we braced ourselves for the big typhoon, there was something else which we did as a nation ... we embraced the Lord and

The recent typhoons were Advent reminders for preparation and conversion

and our Blessed Mother in prayer. It is amazing how we as a people reminded one another through text messages of our need for God, and the power of prayer. Threatened by something beyond our control, we humbled ourselves, and in our helplessness, we turned to God in prayer. I hope we also turn to our hearts and change our ways. I hope, too that we turn to one another and reach out in generosity and love.

* * *

We have in Fr. Charlito Colendres, chancellor of the Prelature of Infanta, a modern-day John the Baptist. His whole life was spent in proclaiming the Gospel truths in defense of his flock. He died while he was trying to save his parishioners during the recent flash floods "in solidarity with his people to the last." A priest has died saving lives, while the loggers and their cohorts who caused and aggravated the flash floods are free and enjoying a comfortable life. Shame on you!

* * *

Recently, a beautiful Advent reminder came to our shores in the person of Julia Kim, the visionary from Korea. She touched the hearts of so many people with her heal-

ing and message. Thousands of people were literally embraced by her. Being embraced by Julia is like being embraced by the Blessed Mother. We told her that she did not have to embrace and bless everyone because she was exhausted already, but with a smile typical of a mother, she said she wanted to bless and embrace everyone. Her love is sincere. Her generosity is real.

* * *

Upon the invitation of Director Sol Matugas, I had the chance to give spiritual enhancements to the teachers-staff of the Department of Education (Region 8) in Tacloban City. I accepted the invitation to honor our public school teachers who carry out an invaluable mission for our people. They are not only educators, they are modern-day prophets as well in their task of forming, informing and transforming our society through education. On a personal note, I also wanted to honor my mother, herself a public school teacher, who celebrates her 84th birthday this Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Hail to all dedicated parents and teachers who are true prophets, not for profit.

* * *

While some of us are getting ready preparing for a nice and cozy Christmas, let us be reminded that we have brothers and sisters around who are not even sure if they will still be alive this Christmas because of poverty and sickness. Please, please, please share, and do your part. That which you do for love is never lost. That which you do for Christ will last. Any help for the victims in cash or in kind, please call up the SVD Mission Office at 721-7457.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, thank you for reminding us of the Advent message of readiness and change of heart. Amen.

* * *

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The Ombudsman

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

THE FIGHT against official corruption has once again taken center stage, mainly with the high-profile case involving a two-star general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Not since plunder charges were filed against former President Joseph Estrada has the nation seen a flurry of activities in pursuit of a "big fish" in government.

A recent working paper of the International Monetary Fund came to the conclusion that there exists a vital connection between corruption and poverty with the evidence indicating that corruption increases poverty in any society. So in a sense, the war against corruption is an integral part of the struggle to eradicate poverty in our country.

In the forefront of this battle is a 16-year-old office which was initially created by the 1973 Constitution and was known as the Tanodbayan. The office was tasked to investigate complaints against public officials. The 1987 Constitution beefed up the office by adding an overall deputy and one deputy each for Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the Armed Forces. It also created the Office of the Special Prosecutor. However, it was not until May 12, 1988 that the Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) came into being with the appointment of former Justice Conrado M. Vasquez as the first Ombudsman serving a term of seven years. He was followed by Aniano Desierto, who was succeeded in 2002 by the current Ombudsman, Simeon Marcelo.

Just for historical background and appreciation: Unlike the Tanodbayan and the Sandiganbayan, the term Ombudsman is of Scandinavian origin. It derives from two Swedish words: "*Ombud*" meaning commissar or agent, and "man" which has the same meaning in the English language. In 1809, the office of the *justitieombudsman* was created to act as an agent of justice, to see after the interests of citizens in the affairs of government. In Scandinavian countries, the Ombudsman is a government official who investigates citizens' complaints against the government or its functionaries. The term has since been expanded in use to include people who perform similar functions in business corporations and even newspapers.

* * *

In a recent forum last October, Ombudsman Marcelo pointed out the glaring inadequacies of his office by comparing it with Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), one of the most successful anti-corruption agencies in the world.

1. In terms of personnel—the ICAC has 1,326 personnel for a bureaucracy of some 174,175 officials and employees and a population of 6.8 million. The OMB has 1,441 personnel for a bureaucracy of approximately 1.5 million officials and employees and a population of roughly 84 million.

2. In budgetary figures—The ICAC has the equivalent of P4.94 billion while the OMB has P480 million.

3. In number of field investigators (the personnel responsible for securing evidence against corrupt government officials)—the ICAC has 837 field investigators for a bureaucracy of 174,175 or a ratio of 1:208 while the OMB has 87 field investigators for a bureaucracy of approximately 1.5 million officials and employees or a ratio of 1:17,241.

4. In terms of compensation—perhaps, we should not even try to make comparisons since ICAC personnel are among the highest paid in Hong Kong.

In simple terms, what you pay for is what you get, and unless we start putting our money where our mouths are, the "big fishes" in our society will continue to have the last say as well as the last laugh.

Which brings me to one of the more promising projects initiated by Marcelo. He points out that despite its 16 years of existence, the OMB has failed to indict and successfully prosecute the proverbial "big fish." The main reason is that the OMB has less than 60 prosecutors handling more than 2,000 cases. Marcelo has identified about 50 of the most prominent and high-impact cases at the Sandiganbayan involving high-ranking government officials who are represented by the best lawyers money can buy. Under "Operation Big Fish" the OMB and the Philippine Bar Association entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with respect to the prosecution of some of these "big fish" cases. With the help of volunteer lawyers from the private sector, the OMB hopes to be able to aggressively prosecute the most powerful and influential officials involved in these 50 most significant graft cases. Among the cases are those involving: (1) President Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard; (2) RSBS Pension Fund; (3) PEA-Amari scam; (4) Tax credit scam; (5) DPWH vehicle repair scam; and (6) the PCGG cases.

* * *

In a recent letter to the editor, a Comelec official, Milagros Desamito, says that I should have quoted the dissent of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. on the case involving Comelec and the Mega Pacific consortium. Even if I published the dissent of the Chief Justice in full, it would not have changed the fact that by a vote of 9-5, the Supreme Court decided to void Comelec Resolution 6074 awarding a contract for the supply of automated counting machines to Mega Pacific consortium. In its decision, the high court declared that "Comelec awarded this billion-peso undertaking with inexplicable haste, without adequately checking and observing mandatory financial, technical and legal requirements...the illegal, imprudent and hasty actions of the Commission have not only desecrated legal and jurisprudential norms but have also cast serious doubts upon the poll body's ability and capacity to conduct automated elections."

Review of Ninoy's murder: Not again!

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

WHAT is it about the murder of Ninoy Aquino that the question of who killed him (or ordered his killing) keeps recurring every time his birth or death anniversary is commemorated?

It seems a new element is introduced every year to raise doubts about the validity of the 1990 Supreme Court decision convicting 15 soldiers of the defunct Aviation Security Command for his death. This time, it's the Public Attorney's Office, an agency under the Department of Justice, that's spearheading the move to overturn that judgment.

Citing the testimony of an alleged eyewitness and new forensic evidence, the PAO recently asked the SC to re-open the case so it can show that Rolando Galman, not Sgt. Rogelio Moreno (one of the convicted soldiers), shot Ninoy. If this theory is upheld, the soldiers will be set free and be entitled to compensation from the government for the wrongful conviction.

The basis for the PAO's action is "newly discovered evidence." It is evidence that was not available or could not have been secured during the trial but surfaced after judgment had been rendered and, if considered, may result in the acquittal or reduction of the sentence of the accused.

Since re-opening an already concluded trial for this reason will result in setting aside the effects of the earlier proceedings, our courts are very strict in the evaluation of requests of this nature. The newly discovered evidence must not only be "brand new," it should be strong and convincing enough to justify hearing the case all over again.

Availability

The new witness the PAO wants to present is the driver of the Avsecom van parked near the place where Galman allegedly gunned down Ninoy. From that angle, the witness was supposed to have seen Galman sneak behind Ninoy and shoot him in the head.

The witness was a member of the Avsecom at the time of the incident. He was under military control and could have been ordered, under pain of disciplinary action, to testify on what he saw that fateful day. But why was he not presented by the soldiers' lawyers when the case was, first, investigated by the Agrava Commission and later tried by the Sandiganbayan? It would have been impossible for the lawyers to have overlooked the value of his testimony when they prepared the defense of their clients.

Aside from helping his embattled colleagues, the witness' statements would have buttressed the claim of then President Marcos that Ninoy's slaying was part of a communist conspiracy against his administration with Galman as the hitman. Thus, the witness had no reason to fear for his life had he testified. He might have even been promoted for the effort.

Why is he coming out in the open only after 21 long years? During all that time, his fellow soldiers languished in jail for a crime that, if the witness' testimony is to be believed, they are innocent of.

He can argue though that he made himself scarce to avoid being implicated in the murder charges. Now that the period within which the crime can be prosecuted (20 years) has lapsed, he can talk about his experience without fear of being accused as a co-conspirator like his Avsecom colleagues.

Whether that line of argument will meet the criteria of newly discovered evidence is a big question mark. The rule remains that the mistakes of the lawyer are imputed to and suffered by his client.

Forensics

According to the PAO, the new forensic evidence relates to the question on where Ninoy was shot (on the bridge stairs or the tarmac?) and how the bullet entered and exited Ninoy's head (downward or forward?). The same issues were raised and discussed at length in the Sandiganbayan and later in the Supreme Court.

The forensic or medical investigation of Ninoy's slaying was exhaustive. Local and international medico-legal experts examined the crime scene, autopsy report, bullet fragments and other physical evidence to determine who shot who and how and where. Since their findings and conclusions were made public, their critics had the opportunity to scrutinize them for possible errors. The consensus was, it was physically impossible for Galman to have shot Ninoy.

Thus, after a careful evaluation of the evidence presented, the tribunal ruled that the gunman was Sergeant Moreno, not Galman. Its reconstruction of the sequence of events and matching of evidence would have made Sherlock Holmes very happy.

Like the interpretation of laws, forensic evidence is susceptible to varying interpretations depending on the training, orientation and outlook of the person reviewing the evidence. Unless it involves DNA testing, the conclusions of one forensic expert over a piece of evidence are as good as that made by a colleague in the profession. There is no monopoly of knowledge in the medico-legal field.

Nightmare

After 21 years, it's time to put the ghost of Ninoy's assassination behind us. There is nothing to gain from flagellating ourselves every year about this tragic chapter in our history.

The purpose for which the Almighty may have made it happen has been served—it put an end to the Marcos dictatorship and restored democracy in our country. Our courts have better things to do than waste time, money and effort hearing a case that went through the judicial mill twice.

Litigations in court cannot go on forever; they have to end at a certain point. The highest court of the land has, since 1991, ruled on the people responsible for the slaying of the most prominent member of the opposition during the martial law years. Right or wrong, that ruling is the final word on the case.

Only God knows if the 15 soldiers really killed Ninoy. But as far as our legal system is concerned, they are guilty beyond reasonable doubt. That decision was arrived at after a lengthy trial where the soldiers were assisted by their chosen lawyers.

Many of the wounds caused by Ninoy's murder have already healed. At this stage where our country is beset by serious social and financial problems, the last thing we need is a revival of political animosities and creation of new intrigues about the people who stood to gain from Ninoy's death.

More than enough has been said and written about the legal drama over his slaying. The *telenovela* has run its full course; it's time to put an end to it and leave its cast of characters to the judgment of history.

Yet too few (deaths)

COMMENTARY

Antonio A. Oposa Jr.

A FEW days ago, 600 people died in Aurora and in Nueva Ecija. Last year, about 300 died in Southern Leyte. In 1991, 5,000 people died in Ormoc.

Too few deaths to make a dent. At least 20 million Filipinos must first die from floods and mudslides. Include in the 20 million **all** the members of Congress, **all** the Cabinet secretaries, the President, Vice President, members of the judiciary, and the governors and mayors of **all** local governments. And include all their children, and all the priests and bishops of the Catholic Church. And for good measure, include me and my family. Then—and only **then**—will people begin to wake up!

Yes, "sometimes words have to be a little wild, for they are the assault of thoughts upon the unthinking"!

One man is kidnapped in Iraq, and the whole country stops. Everything is done to rescue him, even at the cost of embarrassing ourselves as wimps in the international community.

Year after year, rain after rain, hundreds and thousands die of floods and mudslides. We scream and howl, for one or two days. The President issues yet again a long overdue statement about illegal logging. Some idiotic members of Congress call for an investigation and hog the limelight for a few days. After which the issue is buried deep in the mudslides, conveniently forgotten.

See what happened in Ormoc? Have the mountains been reforested? No, instead, millions and millions of pesos were spent to build dikes along the rivers, as if that were the solution.

Who is to blame? Illegal loggers? Legal loggers? *Kaingineros*? Forest land conversion? Politicians-protectors? Inept members of Congress? The President (who, incidentally, seems to be more concerned about selling off the country to foreign mining companies and "investors" in the pursuit of wrong-headed economic progress)? The members of the judiciary? The Church, which encourages people to procreate as if priests were such authorities on procreation (or are they)? Local government officials? Or is it us, ordinary citizens who just turn our heads away and say, "that is the problem of government"?

Look at the mirror, and the answer is "All of the above."

"In the Laws of Nature, there is no right or wrong, there are no rewards or punishments, there are only consequences." We cut down the trees and convert forest lands for non-forest uses. No one gives a damn. The laws of man are easy to escape. Violators can pay a bribe (often), or pay a fine (rarely), or go to jail (even more rarely).

But then the Laws of Nature work by different rules. When we violate them, everyone pays, at one time or another. And we think we've seen the worst? No, this is only the beginning. It will get much, much worse in the days, months and years to come—with stronger and more erratic typhoons, unusually heavy rains, more devastating floods and mudslides, erosion, siltation, etc. This is not a matter of prophecy, this is a matter of certainty and basic common sense.

Yes, when we violate the Laws of Nature, there are no rewards or punishments, there are only consequences.

According to the topographic configuration of our land—in fact according to the Law—at least 50 percent of the country's land area must be devoted to forest uses. This is to ensure sufficient water supply, climate control and other forest services, commonly known as the "balance of ecology." The other 50 percent may be devoted to agriculture, residential and other non-forest uses.

The following is a picture of what happened to our forest lands: Year 1900—70 percent old-growth forest; Year 2000—3 percent old-growth forest.

Whose fault is this? Let us all take a huge mirror and look ourselves in the eye.

Yes, we want to protect our forests. But for heaven's sake, do we even know where they are? If we cannot even identify the forest lands, all the logging—legal and illegal—and the land conversions will go on uncontrolled. In fact, even our national parks have been appropriated by private people who hold illegal tax declarations (e.g., Mt. Palay-Palay National Park of Cavite, Cebu Central Park, etc.).

It is for this reason that the Constitution directs Congress to, as soon as possible, determine the final forest lines of the country with visible boundary markers on the ground. This was in 1987. Today—17 years after the Constitution was passed—neither Congress nor the President has done anything significant about it. Very good. They should all drown in the mudslides.

This, sirs and madams, should be the first step to conserving, protecting and rehabilitating (CPR) the forest. Yes, no less than an emergency Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) procedure for our forest is needed. How many deaths must it take to get this into our thick skulls? Without that first step, we can shout ourselves until we're red, white and blue in the face, and things will remain the same. But by that single and simple act of delineating the final forest lines—covering about 15.8 million hectares of our land area of 30 million hectares—we will be on our way to heightened awareness of the significance of our forests. More importantly, this simple act will begin to convert our rage over the recurring deaths—and our sensitized level of awareness—into positive action.

Antonio A. Oposa Jr. is an environmental advocate.

The instinct for honesty

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

I'VE sometimes wondered why "corruption" is the word used for acts of dishonesty committed by people in positions of trust. Corruption means debasement, decay, deterioration, weakening. These terms are usually applied to metal and, in particular, to living matter. So, what is it that decays, deteriorates, or weakens in corrupt people?

Is it morality? Virtue? But these are notions that change over time. I think that what corruption signifies when applied to human behavior is the weakening of instincts—in this case, the instinct for honesty. On this simple instinct depends many of our social institutions. Instincts are sources of energy, and corruption is "energy in decline."

The phrase comes from Nietzsche, who wrote: "For there to be institutions, there must be a kind of will, instinct, imperative, which is anti-liberal to the point of malice: the will to tradition, to authority, to centuries of responsibility to come, the will to solidarity of generational chains stretching forwards and backwards in infinitum." When a person violates the trust that is lodged in his social role in a moment of opportunism, he weakens the institutional chain of which he is a vital link.

It is in this sense that one might explain the harshness with which US Army authorities at the Infantry School in Fort Benning treated 2nd Lt. Rolly A. Joaquin after he was caught switching the discount tags for merchandise at the school's commissary. The misdeed involves the glorious sum of 50 cents. That was what Lieutenant Joaquin, the brightest of his Philippine Military Academy class, stood to gain. In the context of Fort Benning's jealously protected institutional pride, dishonesty is not defined by the amount of money that is stolen. It is defined by the act itself—the breach of trust. Ambassador Ramon J. Farolan, himself a former military man, made a similar point in a previous column on this page.

It is a point that is largely forgotten in today's world, where the gravity of an act is typically reduced by referring to the material insignificance of what is gained or taken. We know it is against the rules—it is not supposed to be done—but since the value is petty, it is therefore not really wrong. This mode of reasoning is only one step removed from other common techniques of neutralization, such as: "The value is small compared to what the government or the company earns," "I am entitled to it because I have paid for it," "No one gets hurt," "Everyone is doing it anyway," or "The rules are stupid."

The other day, after I spoke at a teachers' congress, somebody slipped me a note about high officials in state universities and colleges who abuse their privileges by habitually filling up their private vehicles with gasoline paid for by the government. The practice, I'm afraid, is as rampant as the unauthorized use of public vehicles for personal purposes. Petty as they may seem compared to large-scale graft, such practices constitute the model for more serious offenses in the bureaucracy.

What is this model? Even if we know it is wrong, we do it anyway because it is easy, and because it would be stupid not to do it. We don't even have to summon willfulness to do it. All that is needed is weakness, a lack of self-esteem and pride. Similarly, we do what is right not out of a sense of duty, or conviction, or instinct, but simply out of fear or lack of opportunity to do otherwise. These are symptoms of a culture in decline.

Natural calamities may often challenge our will to live, but if they don't kill us, we might emerge from them stronger and more united. But corruption is something else. Its danger is insidious. It weakens the whole community and its effects are passed on across generations. In this sense, the fury of a thousand typhoons is nothing compared to the demoralization and cynicism that corruption in the military has brought upon the nation.

Discipline and duty are the hallmarks of the armed forces. No other institution draws its purpose more from the nation than the military. Thus, when the rottenness in the armed forces is exposed, what does this signify for the nation? It can only mean we have hit the limit, beyond which we cannot go further without calling into question the nation's very reason for being. At that point, we would do our people and the world a great favor if our leaders openly admitted failure and allowed the United Nations to supervise our affairs.

Although many of our people are leaving this country in desperation, I refuse to think we have already crossed the line in our seemingly irresistible drift toward decay. Yet the current situation is urgent enough to warrant a close examination of what the crisis of our institutions is telling us.

To my mind, it is warning us of the exhaustion of the sense of responsibility for the future. This is manifest in the growing inability of our young people to identify with anything worthy beyond themselves and their families. The Filipino nation as a collective undertaking seems so remote from their everyday concerns. National pride has become passé. For many, there is hardly anything left in which to anchor a sense of personal honesty.

In times like these, heroic figures with immense energy usually come forward to revive the flagging spirits of a people. The slightest most accidental stimulus can often bring them out, says Nietzsche. I think we need not wait for a Filipino Napoleon to get us out of the doldrums. The power of consistent example in daily life by those whose instinct for honesty remains strong should turn the tide.

* * *

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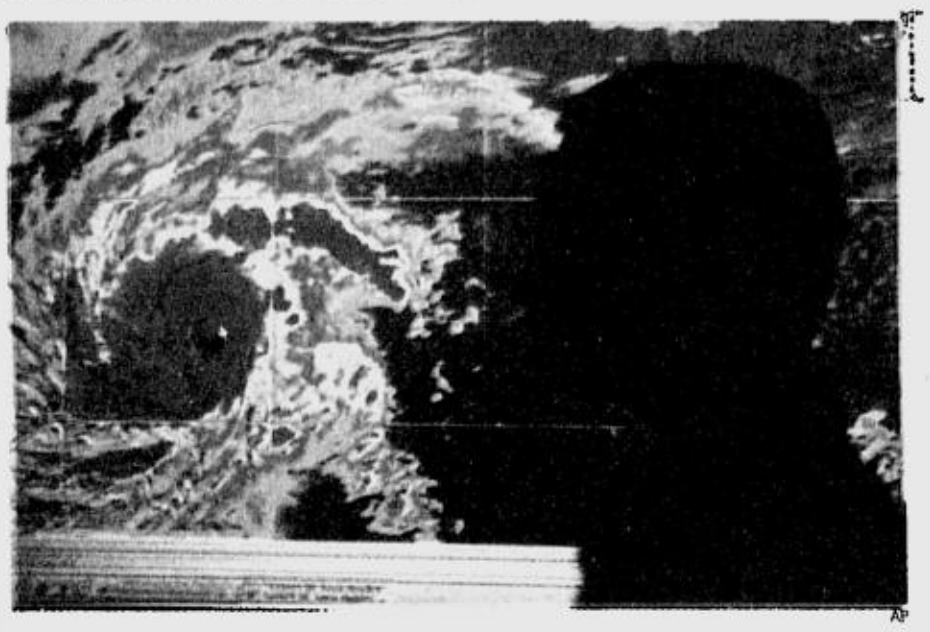
Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Did Pagasa bungle its job?



AP

IN A COUNTRY that is visited by an average of 19 typhoons or tropical storms every year, being forewarned of an approaching storm is being forearmed. Three typhoons ("Yoyong," "Violeta" and "Unding") and a tropical depression ("Winnie") hit the country between Nov. 19 and Dec. 2, bringing death and destruction to a wide swath of Luzon.

As of Dec. 3, some 1,000 people had been declared dead or missing and billions of pesos worth of crops, livestock, infrastructure, homes and forests were destroyed.

Most of the victims were not warned of the flooding, landslides, turbulent seas, or even of the approaching typhoon.

As a result, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has been accused of bungling its job. A storm enthusiast said that Pagasa did not issue a warning that Unding had changed direction and threatened Camarines Sur.

Fishermen and their families are mad at the Pagasa for not hoisting a storm signal over Oriental Mindoro when Unding was approaching the province. A number of fishermen, who even had transistor radios to monitor the weather, drowned when their boats were pummeled by waves spawned by the typhoon.

Pagasa claims that it did issue storm signals over Bicol and Mindoro, but these apparently came late. The warning did not reach the public.

We are mad at weather bureau

By Renato Aquino

Some of us, including our families, are mad at Pagasa because it did not report on the storm signal when Typhoon "Unding" was moving toward Mindoro. I hope Pagasa will announce the storm signal when there's a typhoon coming our way so we can take precautions.

The storm signal was raised over other places like Marinduque, Aurora and Quezon, "kaya ganun kami kapanatag (that was why we were that confident)." It was four days after Unding was announced that we felt its fury.

On Nov. 19, as usual, I went out to fish because the waters were calm and there was no report from Pagasa. Our group even brought a transistor when we put out to sea.

The following day, the clouds darkened, the winds became strong and we were experiencing big waves.

At around 6 a.m., a *buhawi* (waterspout) hit us and turned our boat upside down. We immediately tied our hips and hands with a rope so that we would not be separated from our boat. When the boat began to sink, we held on to its bamboo outrigger. We let ourselves be carried away by the strong current that's why we survived.

We reached Bulalacao (southernmost town of Oriental Mindoro). We were pushed back by the current to Roxas town then back again. We were going back and forth for an hour. The strong waves hit us. It was really painful and we did not have food to eat and water to drink. The others were feeling weak.

When we realized that the *buhawi* was getting near us, we tried to swim deep into the water until we were just two feet from the ocean floor. We tried to catch some air. We did it several times.

We thought it was the end. Clouds were black and thick. The sea was churning. The winds were howling.

Rescue

Eventually, the sea calmed down at around 2 p.m. and then men on a boat from Barangay Sumagui in Bansud town, which is next to Bongabong, saw us swimming and waving. They rescued us and brought us to Sumagui first because the water current was strong in Bongabong. We where fed in Sumagui. Then we were brought home through land transport. That was already 11 p.m.

The following day, I went to the mayor but there were many people asking for help. So I left. Members of my family had worried because they had not seen me for a day and a night. They learned that some of us were found dead. Other fishermen continued to look for missing colleagues.

I would never forget that experience. Whenever I close my eyes, I see the big waves. *Ayoko na sana.* But I have no other means of livelihood. I'll fish again when the sea is calm in January.

(As told to Madonna T. Virola, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau. Aquino is a fisherman from Barangay Aplaya in Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro.)

'We are committed to give our best'

By Prisco D. Nilo, Ph.D.

This is to clarify some issues raised in connection with the news item in the Nov. 29 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer ("Pagasa bungled in 'Unding,' says storm enthusiast, page A18").

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) issued the first Severe Weather Bulletin for Tropical Depression "Unding" at 11 a.m. on Nov. 14 with winds of 55 kph. Unding was then forecast to move in the direction of Samar-Bicol area and make landfall in Northern Samar and Sorsogon in the afternoon of Nov. 17. Hence, storm Signal No. 1 was raised over Bicol and Samar provinces.

On the other hand, Joint Typhoon Warning Center (JTWC) [of the US Navy and US Air Force], which is based in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, issued a warning for Unding at 8 a.m. on Nov. 15 and predicted landfall in Northern Samar at 8 a.m., Nov. 16. It predicted that Sorsogon would also be hit.

The same forecast philosophy was adopted by Pagasa in its bulletins every six hours until the 5 p.m. issuance of the Severe Weather Bulletin on Nov. 17. In accordance with this forecast, storm Signal No. 2 was raised over the Bicol region.

Erratic track

JWTC maintained the same forecast philosophy in its bulletins issued every six hours throughout the duration of Unding, always predicting landfall in one or two days since Nov. 15.

However, Unding's track had been erratic beginning 5 p.m. on Nov. 15 until the morning of Nov. 19 as it intensified into a typhoon and drifted northward. At the same time, Unding executed a loop while over the Pacific Ocean at a distance of about 200 km east of Quezon province.

With the erratic movement of Unding, by 5 p.m. on Nov. 18 Pagasa decided to lower the storm signal in Bicol, taking into consideration the increasing number of stranded passengers in various ports in the region.

In the afternoon of Nov. 19, storm Signal No. 2 was again raised over Catanduanes and the Camarines provinces. Signal No. 1 was raised over other areas as Unding moved southwest toward the Camarines area.

In the next bulletin issued at 11 p.m. on Nov. 19, storm Signal No. 3 was raised over Catanduanes and the Camarines provinces while storm Signals Nos. 2 and 1 were raised over other areas along the predicted path of Unding.

By 5 a.m. on Nov. 20, the storm signal over Mindoro and other areas along the path were raised to Signal No. 3.

There is, therefore, no truth to the claim of Michael Padua that Pagasa did not raise any storm signal as Unding moved in the direction of Camarines Norte on Nov. 19.

It is unfortunate that Fred Consulta, Weather Observer III of the Bicol River Flood Forecasting and Warning System (BRFFWS), based in Camaligan, Naga City had misrepresented himself as a weather forecaster of Pagasa. In fact, his job is that of a hydrological technician in support of the activities of hydrologists at BRFFWS. The statements he made were beyond the function and expertise of personnel at the BRFFWS.

We would like to assure our countrymen that as civil servants, we at Pagasa are committed to give our best and work round the clock during inclement weather to be of service to our nation.

(Nilo is officer-in-charge and deputy director for operations and services of Pagasa.)

Storm bulletins too Manila-based

By Jesse M. Robredo

What happened to Naga City during typhoon "Unding" is a classic example of how bad our weather forecasting system has become.

On Nov. 19, at about 7 p.m., most of the Nagueños, just like in the ordinary days, were glued to their television sets, watching their favorite *telenovelas*. Downtown, all seats were taken at Lolo's Bar for a special concert by six-string artists from the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Except for the continuous rains and skirt-blowing winds, everything looked all right. Offices and schools were open that day. At night, most of the establishments were business as usual. Street lamps illumined the streets and vehicles were transporting passengers here and there. There was a storm hovering all over Bicol but many dismissed it as one of those tropical depressions that was no cause for serious alarm.

Indeed, three hours before, Pagasa had sent out an advisory that typhoon Signal No. 2 had been lowered to Signal No. 1 in the Camarines provinces as the approaching Unding was slowing. It stalled somewhere north of Bicol with the center remaining offshore.

Different story

Interviewed by a local radio station, I said the latest forecast from the Internet was telling a different story. I warned of a strong typhoon coming our way, and that we should be ready and pray that it change direction before nightfall. Of course, the people chose to believe Pagasa's official weather bulletin over one that came from somebody, who has neither the expertise nor business on weather forecasting.

Was it "Noah's Ark" replayed with a modern setting? Many did not take it seriously that before the interview, I had consulted some local experts, who included Michael Padua, a professor who set up his own website (www.typhoon200.com) that helps him track down weather disturbances from around the globe.

I learned that Unding (international codename "Muifa"), as early as Nov. 18, was declared by the Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission (TRMM) a major typhoon with maximum sustained winds of 213 kph. By Nov. 19, TRMM showed that the typhoon continued to move across South Luzon (Bicol) with gusts of 150 to 180 kph.

Unding struck Naga City with its full fury at around 9 p.m. Lights went down as thunder boomed and lightning lit up the skies. By midnight, all was strangely quiet.

Worst since Sening

Dawn broke to reveal the city and its neighboring municipalities in Camarines Sur in disarray: streets and highways were strewn with uprooted trees and fallen electric posts; about 4,000 houses in the city were in total wreck while thousands more were badly battered, their roofs jettisoned in all directions; radio towers and billboard frames were twisted beyond repair.

It was the worst typhoon that hit Naga and Camarines Sur since Typhoon "Sening" in 1970 and Typhoon "Rosing" in 1995. The typhoon's fury took all three hours, but the damage done would take some time to repair. The Department of Agriculture reported that crops and marine products in Bicol worth P251.8 million were damaged and the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council said 28 people died in Camarines Sur alone.

It was a most deplorable time to blame anybody. Everyone must look beyond the misery and devastation.

As if on cue, fellow workers at City Hall reported to my office first hour in the morning to map out plans for quick restoration works and disaster management. Out in the streets, dump trucks and bulldozers moved about as residents and barangay officials cut down fallen trees along major road roads. Fortunately for us, the city's drainage system was fit to contain Unding's rainfall of 35 inches, which inundated vast tracks of farmlands in other areas, particularly those along the Bicol River.

Had there been fair warning, with a lead-time of at least six hours, damage to life and property would have been lesser. The ordinary Bicolano, for one, would have salvaged his potted *siling labuyo*, which makes lean food in the difficult days ahead taste better.

On hindsight, we could not help but inquire into Pagasa's miscue on Unding. Local weathermen at Pagasa-Camaligan, 7 km north of the city, told us they were merely issuing bulletins what the central office had furnished them and that public storm signals were hoisted upon clearance from Manila. They, however, admitted that their local weather station did not have enough equipment such as typhoon-tracking radars.

Siren, website

Because we know that simply shaking our heads will not help, we at City Hall resolved to come up with initiatives at the soonest possible time within our means:

- As soon as power was temporarily restored in most areas of the city, we put up an independent weather forecasting center, in partnership with a local media outlet and the private sector. Its main task is to broadcast unofficial weather bulletins especially during abnormal weather conditions, with the Internet as the main tool. This becomes more useful, considering that Pagasa's weather bulletins are "Manila-based," which at times miss local and actual conditions. Meanwhile, the city's website, naga.gov.ph maintains a 24-hour weather monitoring page, with occasional video streaming of the city's landscape where necessary.
- For good measure, a warning device (e.g. siren) will be installed at Plaza Quezon's clock tower to inform residents of the typhoon signal. This warning device will automatically be hooked to a generator set from a nearby hotel to insure uninterrupted service.

Cell phone chargers

- There will be a mechanism to make lines of communication accessible at all times. For instance, standby portable battery chargers during calamities and power failures will be made available at designated places for free charging by cell phone users.
- Disaster management teams must be strengthened in all barangays and make sure they have trained personnel and basic equipment for relief assistance and disaster control.

With the availability of modern technology such as the Internet, localizing weather forecasting and typhoon-tracking system, while long overdue, proved to be doable. With little help from the local government unit concerned, all it requires is to pool resources through strong community involvement.

(Robredo, a Magsaysay awardee for government service in 2000, is mayor of Naga City.)

What are the roots of the Luisita row? (2)

The SDO is legal and moral

By Fernando C. Cojuangco

The real issue is the re-negotiation of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) at Central Azucarrera de Tarlac (CAT), the sugar refinery which is not part of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). It neither involves the CBA at Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) nor the stock dispersal option (SDO) that took place in the hacienda 15 years ago.

Despite these realities, critics do not look at the illegal nature of the work stoppage at CAT-Hacienda Luisita. They know it is a lost cause. What they say is that the issue has assumed agrarian dimensions, specifically the SDO scheme, which the Cojuangco family and the farm worker beneficiaries (FWBs) had worked out in 1989. We will give them the pleasure of discussing the SDO if only to make this matter clear before the bar of public opinion.

The SDO scheme is both legal and moral.

The nearly 5,000-hectare sugar plantation known as Hacienda Luisita is not owned solely by the Cojuangco family. Its owner is HLI, a firm, which is jointly owned by the Cojuangco family, Tarlac Development Corp. (or Tadeco, the former owner of Hacienda Luisita), and about 5,300 FWBs, represented by United Luisita Workers' Union, its labor union.

HLI's creation was the Cojuangco family and the FWBs' way of complying with Republic Act No. 6657, or the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL). Section 2 states: "The agrarian reform program is founded on the right of farmers and regular farm workers, who are landless, to own directly or collectively the lands they till."

Section 3 states that agrarian reform means the redistribution of lands, and all other arrangements alternative to the physical redistribution of lands, such as production or profit sharing, and the distribution of shares of stocks, which will allow beneficiaries to receive a just share of the fruits of the land they work.

The truth, therefore, is that the SDO is allowed under the law and that the Cojuangco family and the FWBs scrupulously followed the mandate of the law.

How did the farmers express their agreement to an arrangement in which they own one-third of HLI? It must be noted that the farmers' shares of stock were given to them at no cost over a fairly short period of time. There are other benefits, which they receive way above what the law requires.

The SDO was implemented in compliance with the law. A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was signed by Tadeco and FWBs on May 11, 1989. The MOA contains the terms and conditions of the SDO. Both the FWBs and Tadeco agreed to get into SDO in the MOA.

A referendum was initiated by then Agrarian Reform Secretary Philip Ella Juico. Of the 6,296 FWBs, 5,498 or 92.9 percent, approved and signed the MOA. A second referendum was called on Oct. 14, 1989 primarily to decide on the mode of CARL compliance—SDO or actual land redistribution. After extensive information campaign conducted by then Secretary Miriam Defensor-Santiago, 5,117 FWBs out of the 5,315 votes cast, or 96.27 percent, voted in favor of SDO.

On Nov. 21, 1989, the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC), the Cabinet-level policy-making and governing body for CARL implementation unanimously approved the SDO as the mode of compliance for HLI and its FWBs. PARC includes representatives of both peasants and landowners' groups.

Aside from the free HLI shares of stock, the FWBs will get, on top of their regular compensation, an amount equivalent to three percent on the gross sales from the production of the plantation. The amount given to each farmer-owner shall depend on the number of days worked. The FWBs are entitled to 4 seats on the 10-member HLI board of directors. Qualified family-beneficiaries were also given free home lots of not more than 240 sqm.

On top of the benefits given under the SDO, HLI workers continue to receive salaries, wages and benefits, which have accumulated to over P3 billion from 1989 to June 2004. Free hospitalization is provided not only to HLI employees but also to their children and parents.

The SDO scheme has undergone a thorough process, making it perfectly legal.

Hacienda Luisita possesses peculiarities that make physical land redistribution not only impractical but also counterproductive. Its more than 5,000 farmer workers are not tenants as defined by law. They are largely seasonal farm hands. Moreover, if physical land redistribution is to be applied, each farm worker beneficiary would end up with less-than-a-hectare farmland, which means small-scale farming, or less productivity.

Unlike rice farming, sugar farming requires huge areas to become commercially viable. A land less than a hectare for each farmer would not be commercially viable. It is a recipe for economic suicide.

When the Cojuangco family and the FWBs went to comply with CARL, they were confronted with two choices: the dogma of land redistribution or the pragmatic application of collective ownership through the SDO scheme. They chose the latter.

The current situation requires us to unlearn the old and learn the new. It calls for a paradigm shift in which new creative approaches become the norm. Indeed, the march of history is toward the eventual jettisoning of the old but dysfunctional dogmas.

(Cojuangco is the general counsel of Hacienda Luisita Inc.)

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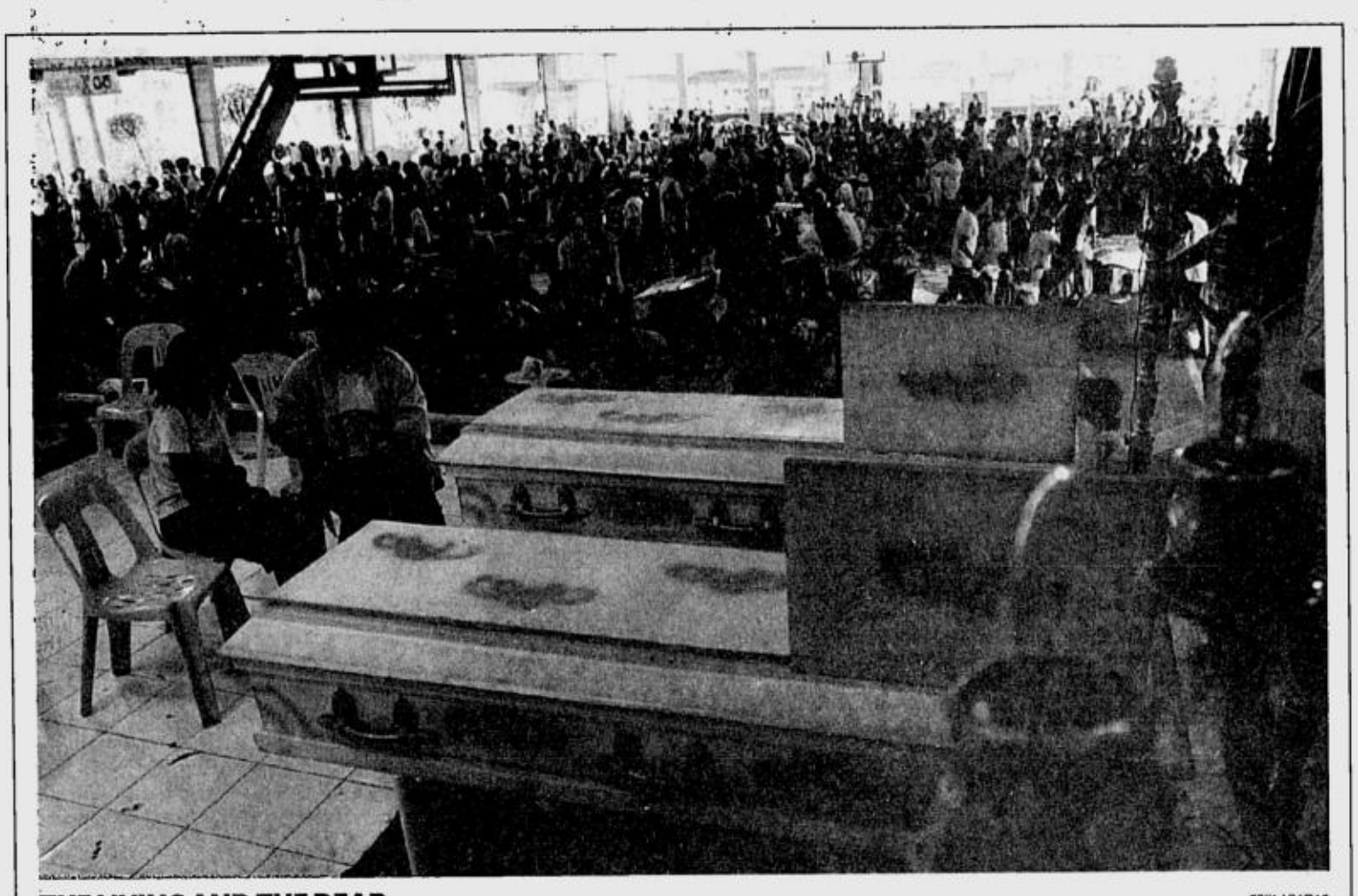
NPA help sought for missing mountaineer



THE LIVING AND THE DEAD ERIK ARAZAS
Evacuees share space with casualties of Typhoon "Winnie" at an evacuation center in Montalban, Rizal. The residents fled their homes as floodwaters rose at the height of the typhoon.

By Nestor P .Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The mother of a mountaineer who disappeared in Antique province almost two years ago has sought the help of communist rebels in finding her son.

"I only want to find my son, even just his remains if he is already dead," said Marsha Gutierrez, mother of Leo Victor (Leovic) Gutierrez.

Marsha said she has sent a letter to Rogelio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing the New People's Army (NPA), asking the help of the rebel group in locating her son or his body.

The NPA in Panay earlier accused the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) of abducting the mountaineer to collect ransom from the family. The RPA-ABB, however, has denied the accusation and offered to help find Leovic.

Marsha said she has repeatedly asked the help of the police and law enforcement agencies that are investigating her son's disappearance but there has been no breakthrough in the investigation.

"Why is it keeping them so long?" she told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Leovic, of Mandaluyong City, disappeared in the Madia-as mountain ranges while mountain climbing with friends from Metro Manila on Feb. 17, 2003. He has not been found despite a massive search operation covering the mountain ranges in Culasi town, 92 km north of the capital town of San Jose, Antique.

His disappearance has baffled his family and mountain climbers who knew him to be an experienced climber and a physical fitness instructor.

Chief Supt. George Aliño, Western Visayas police director, said he has directed the Antique police to pursue the case even if investigators were not sure whether or not the mountaineer was still alive.

Leovic's family and relatives celebrated Mass at the Edsa Shrine on Nov. 22 on his 24th birthday.

Marsha said she has not stopped hoping and waiting that her son will be found. "I'm ready to accept whatever may have happened to him. But the longer it gets, the harder it will be solved," she said.

She has spent most of her time calling law enforcement agencies and the military for any updates on her missing son.

Camarines execs credit local readiness for low casualty rate

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PILI, Camarines Sur—Local chief executives here have credited the preparedness of the local disaster response groups for the low casualty rate in the province at the height of super Typhoon "Yoyong."

The officials also gave credit to the timely warning issued by the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) and the organized and coordinated inter-agency responses a day before Yoyong passed the province.

Unlike Typhoon "Unding" that made a direct hit in Camarines Sur on Nov. 19 and left 35 dead, the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC) here has only reported six casualties on Thursday.

Except for a still-born baby, most of the typhoon casualties reported were fishermen who refused to heed the warning of Pagasa and still went out to sea on Wednesday.

Pagasa, who admitted it bungled with the forecast of Unding and issued typhoon Signal No. 3 at 10:30 p.m. as typhoon was already raging, has been precise and timely this time warning of all the possible paths that Yoyong would take.

Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr., PDCC chair here, said the province has been able to respond to the howler's threat efficiently and appropriately because of closely coordinated efforts from the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Philippine Army, Navy, police and the Pagasa.

Villafuerte said all the agencies involved together with the 100 provincial government officials here have been able to make the rounds in the areas most vulnerable to flooding and landslides in the eastern coast and river areas of the province.

He added that the closely coordinated move of the inter-agency disaster response group that was available to respond to Yoyong's wrath has been ready with food packs and medical assistance anytime 24 hours prior to Yoyong's expected passage.

Yoyong roared close to Camarines Sur going to Aurora province starting in the late morning and ending late afternoon on Thursday.

The number of evacuated families has only reached some 5,000, a day after Yoyong came, compared to more than 30,000 when Unding unexpectedly veered toward Camarines Sur, two weeks ago.

Vice mayor, 12 dads face contempt raps

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—In what is probably the first case of its kind in the Philippines, a regional trial court judge has initiated criminal proceedings against the vice mayor and the 12 councilors of Bais City for indirect contempt, after they allowed a group of protesters to speak before the city council to assail the decision of the court.

Bais City officials led by Vice Mayor Francisco Villanueva, the presiding officer of the city council, all pleaded not guilty last Friday to the charge filed by RTC Branch 45 Judge Ismael Baldado.

The others were Councilors Miguel Angelo Teves, Guillermo Ignacio Villanueva, Miguel Real, Yussef Yardley, Cesar Ybañez, Wington Chang, David Cabanag, Sr., Gerry Teves, Jessie Tam, Karen Villanueva, Avelino Macalandong and Lucille Avenido and city secretary Fernando Morales.

One councilor, Jeremias Perez, failed to appear before the court, allegedly after meeting a vehicular accident on his way to Dumaguete City Friday dawn.

Baldado, who was the complainant, prosecutor and judge in this contempt case, charged the defendants with unduly and unlawfully interfering with the processes of the court and degrading the administration of justice.

Baldado had ruled in favor of one of the parties in a land dispute along the riverside in Bais City and had ordered the demolition of the houses of the losing party last November.

The losing litigants attended the city council session last Nov. 9 and criticized the court's decision while their companions were waving placards outside city hall, which contained the words "Justice for Sale!" "Court order is injustice" and other slogans.

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Body formed to act on threats to media

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—A multipartite body that will act on job-related threats to journalists is being formed in Dumaguete City.

The body will be composed of representatives from the Dumaguete police, city government, provincial government and the media.

The plan to form a body patterned after similar groups in the national level was made during a meeting Friday between the Dumaguete police and the media.

Supt. Constantino Barot, Dumaguete police director, called for the meeting after noting the spate of killings involving journalists in other parts of the country.

This year, 12 journalists have been killed in the Philippines alone, adding to the more than 50 other killings in the past years.

Barot, however, noted that in Dumaguete City, he has yet to receive reports of threats being made against a journalist.

A female reporter of radio station dyWC had reported receiving death threats in her house last Aug. 24 but the incident occurred in the town of Bacong, which is outside of the jurisdiction of the Dumaguete police.

Barot said this example would require police to come up with a security plan that will allow policemen to cross political boundaries in case a similar incident occur in the future.

Barot assured media he would give security to threatened journalists. He, however, said he has no authority to issue permits to carry firearms.

HELPING HANDS REM ZAMORA
Residents lift fallen electric wires to let a jeep pass on a flooded road in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. The residents were trying to take a ride to return to their hometown in Dingalan, Aurora province, one of the worst hit areas during Typhoons "Winnie" and "Yoyong."

Negros awaits GMA at agri, trade fair

By Alex Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has accepted the invitation of Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz to grace the National Agro-Trade Fair and Congress in Bayawan City.

The President is scheduled to visit Bayawan City on Tuesday at 3 p.m. She is expected to deliver a brief talk and return to Manila that same day, Arnaiz announced Friday.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap will deliver the keynote address during the opening ceremony that will be held one day earlier.

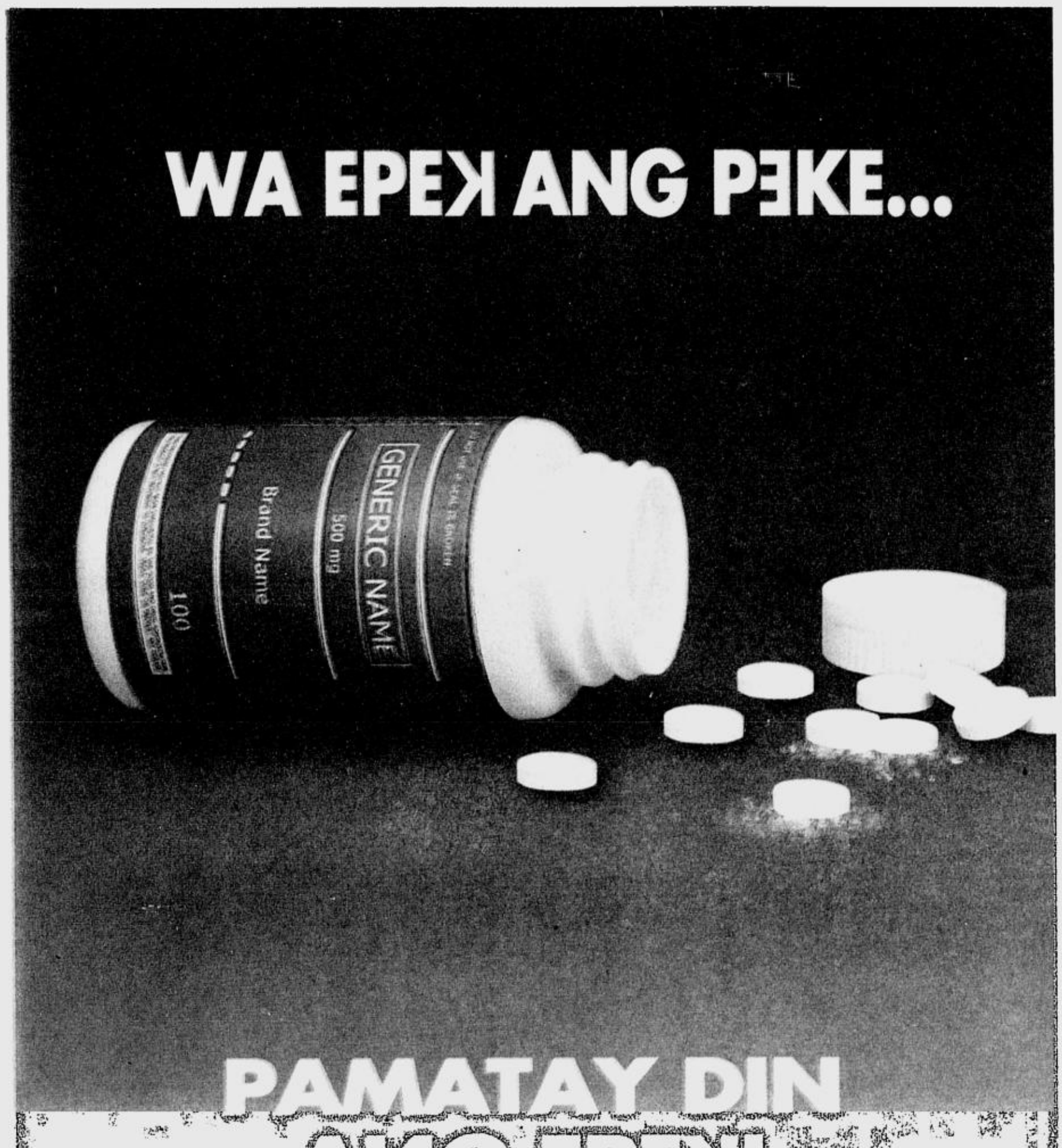
With the theme "Dynamic Agriculture Sector Builds Strong Government," the agro-trade fair and congress, co-sponsored by the Central Visayas Agriculture and Fishery Council and the Department of Agriculture Region 7, will serve as a venue of exchange of new ideas and trends among stakeholders including input suppliers, producer-farmers and traders.

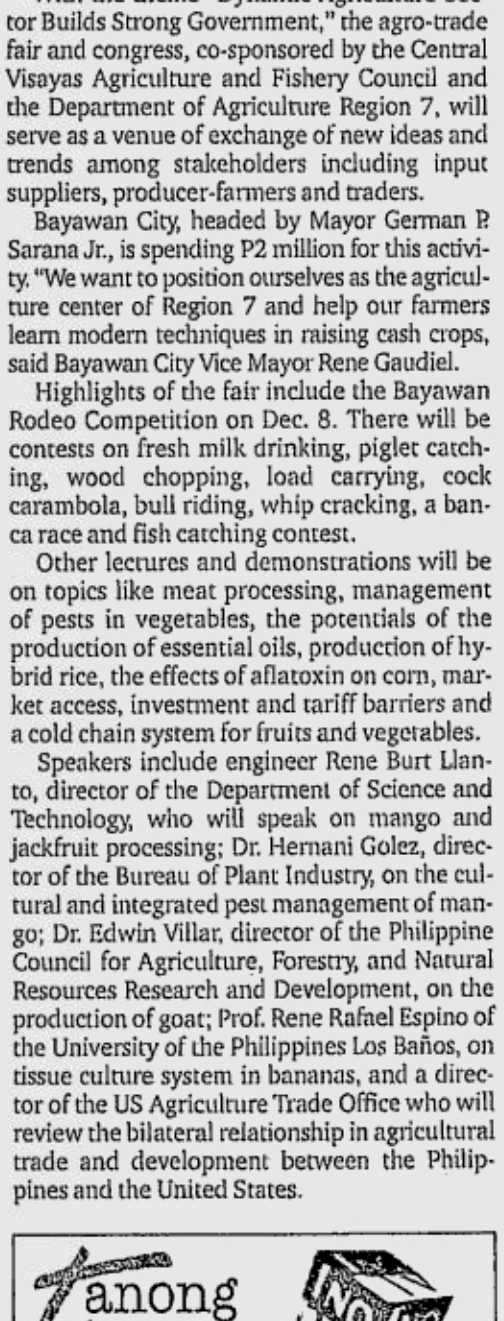
Bayawan City, headed by Mayor German P. Sarana Jr., is spending P2 million for this activity. "We want to position ourselves as the agriculture center of Region 7 and help our farmers learn modern techniques in raising cash crops, said Bayawan City Vice Mayor Rene Gaudiel.

Highlights of the fair include the Bayawan Rodeo Competition on Dec. 8. There will be contests on fresh milk drinking, piglet catching, wood chopping, load carrying, cock carambola, bull riding, whip cracking, a banca race and fish catching contest.

Other lectures and demonstrations will be on topics like meat processing, management of pests in vegetables, the potentials of the production of essential oils, production of hybrid rice, the effects of aflatoxin on corn, market access, investment and tariff barriers and a cold chain system for fruits and vegetables.

Speakers include engineer Rene Burt Llanto, director of the Department of Science and Technology, who will speak on mango and jackfruit processing; Dr. Hernani Golez, director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, on the cultural and integrated pest management of mango; Dr. Edwin Villar, director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resources Research and Development, on the production of goat; Prof. Rene Rafael Espino of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, on tissue culture system in bananas, and a director of the US Agriculture Trade Office who will review the bilateral relationship in agricultural trade and development between the Philippines and the United States.





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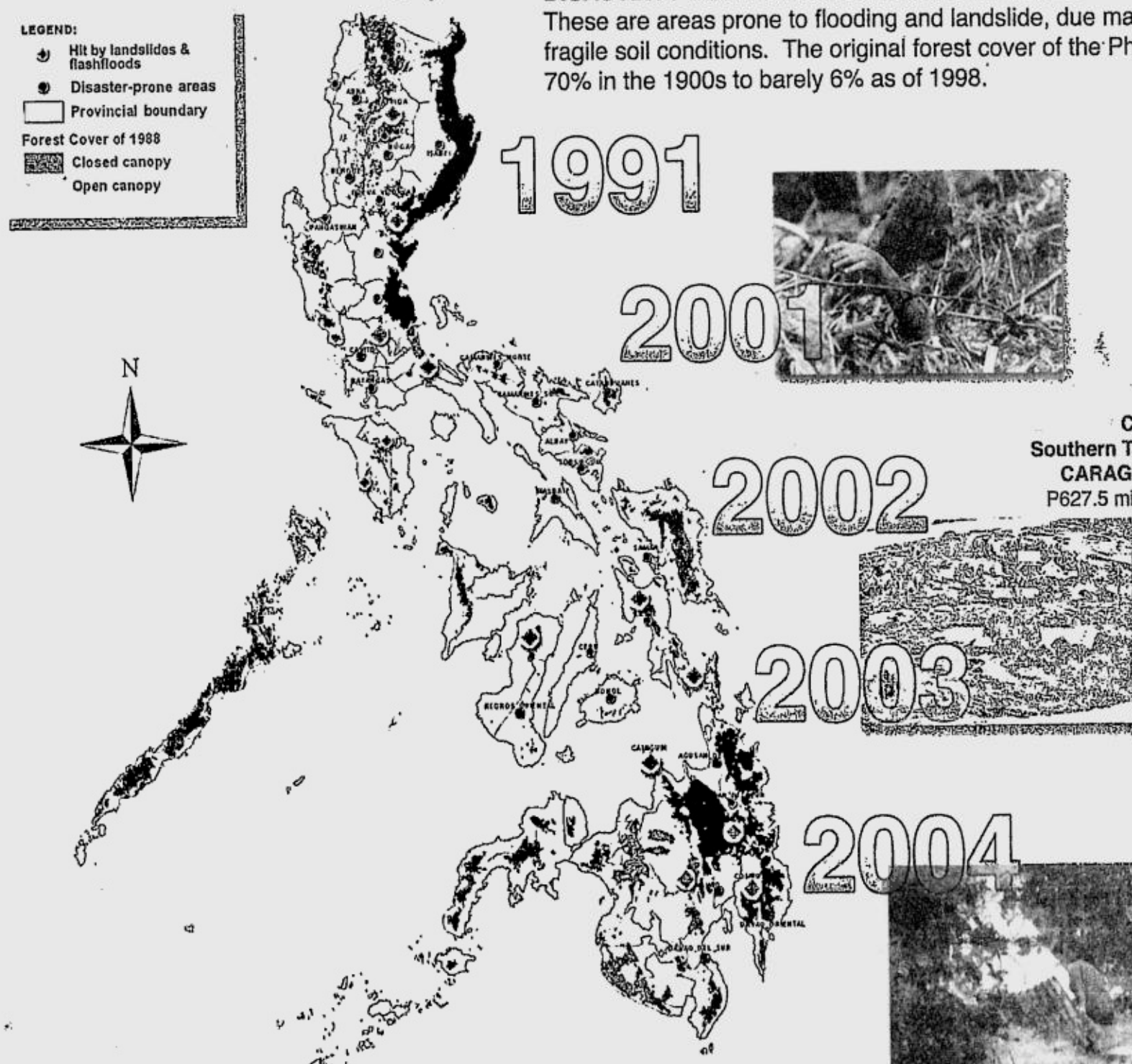

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Billions in properties damaged

Southern Mindanao and CARAGA
253,893 residents left homeless

Central Luzon, National Capital Region, Southern Tagalog, Ilocos, CAR, Western Visayas, CARAGA and Southern and Central Mindanao
P627.5 million in crops and infrastructure damaged

CARAGA, Northern and Southern Mindanao and ARMM
23,100 families placed in evacuation centers

Davao, Compostela Valley, Agusan
179 people dead
P6.462 million in relief assistance

Real, Quezon
500 people dead or missing
P96 million in crops destroyed

Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Isabela
86 villages affected by flood
61 houses washed away

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- Express your disgust over the continuing wanton destruction of our natural forests;
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Sources: Annual Reports, 1991-2003, CDRC; ESSC, 1999; List of Disaster-prone Areas, DENR; DBWD 2003, PDI, Dec. 02, 2004; Philippine map: Haribon/Francisco Tavora, Dead hand. Vanishing Treasures of the Philippine Rainforest (courtesy of Liaison International, 2002); Flood in Nueva Ecija, PDI/Erik Arazas; CNN; Ormoc victims, The Manila Bulletin

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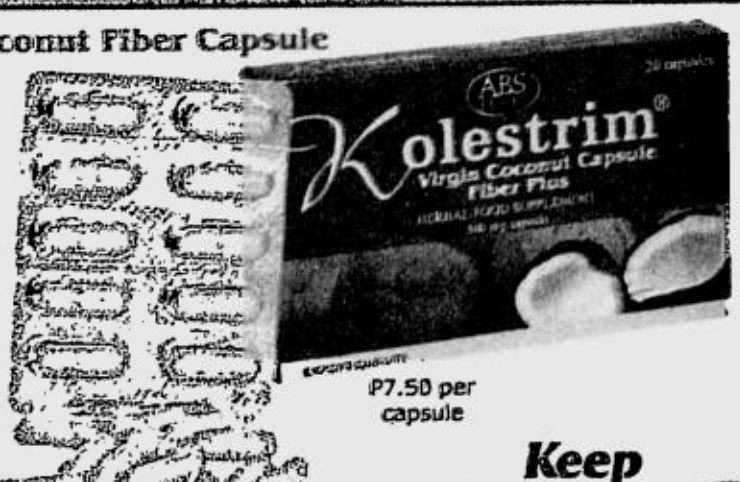

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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Dr. RAMON Gonzales, ENT conducts surgical operation on a cleft lip and palate patient at the St. Elizabeth Craniofacial Foundation Clinic. Assisting him is craniofacial nurse Ma. Aurora P. Matute.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mission brings smiles to young new faces

By Aquiles Zonio
General Santos City

THE VESTIGES of a disfigured face are now hardly visible a year after 2-year-old Mariel Lascuna underwent reconstructive surgery. Except for a speech defect (hyper nasality), one would not know that she once suffered from a bilateral cleft lip and palate.

On Sept. 16, Mariel underwent a secondary palate operation. Since then and after 40-minute speech sessions every day, her speech improved by 60 to 70 percent.

Precious Pardilla was only 4 months old when she had surgery to repair similar deformities. She is now a year old, her face aglow and always smiling.

It was "the best thing" that ever happened to the little girls, according to their parents, who were profuse with gratitude to their benefactors.

Medical research shows that harelip and cleft palate, which usually occur together, are congenital deformities affecting one in 800 births yearly.

Poor maternal nutrition, irregular prenatal checkup and infectious diseases during pregnancy are considered major contributing factors to the high incidence of facial deformities among children, almost all of them coming from poor families.

Teased and ridiculed

Children with harelip and cleft palate are often subjects of cruel teasing by some insensitive souls. Even right in their own homes, places that should have provided them emotional and psychological succor, they are not spared from ridicule.

The thought of looking so ugly would haunt them for a long time. As they grow up, they wonder why they must bear the pain of having physical deformities?

Some, especially those in far-flung places where health and medical services are not accessible, may be emotionally and mentally tortured throughout their life.

In General Santos City, the setting up of an institution extending free reconstructive surgery, hospitalization and care to long-suffering victims of these deformities, offers significant changes in the life of these children.

In the course of his travels in the Visayas and Mindanao as district governor of Rotary International District 3860 from 1997 to 1998, Dr. Jesus Veneracion saw a lot of children suffering from such facial defects, most of which were inborn and others inflicted by abusive parents.

His heart bled, he said, thinking that most of the children came from poor families who could not afford to pay the cost of operation. For instance, a single harelip surgery, he said, would cost between P15,000 and P25,000.

A dream

Veneracion, who owns the St. Elizabeth Hospital, began to dream of putting up a charity clinic devoted to the surgical repair of facial deformities.

One day, while he was discussing a plan to put up a business producing distilled water with Sam Noordoff, he shared his dream with his partner. Noordoff manufactured and distributed machines used in the production of distilled water.

Noordoff promised Veneracion that he would take up the project with his father Samuel, who is engaged in the same profession. A few days after, he called up the Filipino doctor and told him that Samuel and two other plastic surgeons based in Taipei, had scheduled a trip to General Santos.

When the team arrived, Veneracion learned that the elder Noordoff was a world-renowned plastic surgeon and head of the Noordoff Craniofacial Foundation of Taipei. The visiting surgeons conducted free reconstructive operations on 37 harelip and cleft palate patients.

Noordoff agreed to establish an extension of his foundation in the Philippines. Thus, the non-profit St. Elizabeth Hospital Craniofacial Foundation, Inc. came into being.

Several other medical missions to conduct free surgery on children with craniofacial deformities followed Noordoff's visit.

On Jan. 24, 2000, the foundation sent a team of doctors to Taipei to undergo special training at the Chang-Gung Memorial Hospital. Travel and training costs were shouldered by the Noordoff Craniofacial Foundation, St. Elizabeth Hospital and the Chang-Gung Memorial Hospital.

ENT specialist Dr. Ramon Gonzales, anesthesiologist Dr. Edgardo Homez and occupational therapist Myrjhan Yumang were trained on plastic surgery, pediatric anesthesia and speech pathology, respectively.

On Sept. 4, 2000, about a couple of months after they returned, Gonzales and his colleagues started conducting surgical operation on harelip and cleft palate patients at the St. Elizabeth Hospital craniofacial clinic inside the hospital. Since then, they have performed one to two operations every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Noordoff and his medical team visit every six months to conduct operations on serious and complicated cases of harelip, cleft palate and other facial defects.

Free surgery

Veneracion said the clinic had been operating year-round and patients had come from as far as the Visayas and Luzon.

"The St. Elizabeth Craniofacial Clinic is now the center for the whole Mindanao. It's bigger than the one operating in Manila," he said.

The clinic has examination-treatment, dental, photography and audiometry rooms. Its equipment, including maintenance budget, came from donations.

Veneracion said most of the patients referred to them were children.

More than 800 operations have already been undertaken in the clinic since it was set up.

Plays as pathways to peace

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Cagayan de Oro City

"Hala! A Christian woman married a Manobo farmer!" exclaimed a young girl while watching the couple's passionate courtship dance on stage.

Her face lights up when someone whispered to her, "Why not, if you love and respect each other?"

This was the scene of the Davao City-based Kaliwat Theater Collective's pop ethnic musical "Oya! Arakan," one of Mindanao's landmark plays that was showcased in Dalan sa Kalinaw (Pathways to Peace), a grand production featuring the island's best stage musicals produced the past 25 years.

Held on Oct. 8 at Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City, the project was produced by the Cultural Center of the Philippines through its outreach and exchange program, in partnership with the Mindanao Community Theater Network (MCTN), an organization of theater artists and cultural workers.

Four other significant musicals took center stage. They were the "Halik Sa Kampilan" of the Sining Kambayoko of the Mindanao State University in Marawi City, "Datu Matu" of the MSU Iligan Performing Arts Group, "Maranatha" of the Tubod community in Lanao del Sur, and "Lawig Balanghai" of Butuan City.

Skillfully mounted by director Nestor Horfilla, the two-hour production paints the colorful and dynamic landscape of the people's struggle for self-determination, told all the way from the arrival of Spanish conquistadores and the American invaders to the turbulent Christian, Muslim and *lumad*'s seemingly endless conflict and marginalization.

"This is Mindanao captured in the artists' mind and memory," says Fe Remotigue, a poet, playwright and former MCTN chairperson. "And it is a wonderful opportunity for the audience as they watch their history unfold, told with a creative but sensitive perspective."

Likewise, the production summarizes the local artists' struggle, commitment and creative passion as they rode on the moods and temper of contemporary times. Like the ancient tribal storytellers and healers, the artists were mediums telling "who we were, what we are now, and probably where we are going."

The issue on the search for peace brought into realization that peace searching was a common element on the landmark plays, regardless of the violence.

"Our people have always longed for understanding, not division, tolerance, not conflict," said Brigitte Donos-Espinosa, a cultural worker from Butuan.

The production gathered the leading and aspiring names of Mindanao theater—Steven Patrick Fernandez of Ipag, Sunny Noel and Eustess Guia of Kambayoka, Nestor Horfilla of Kaliwat, Geejay Arriola of Davao, and Fr. Dong Galenzoga of Lanao, along with acclaimed musicians Popong Landero, Waway Saway of Bukidnon and Titing Trinquite of Butuan.

"*Tsada kaayo* (So very nice)," comments a middle-aged woman, who accompanied her daughter to the show. "The songs and dances were spectacular and I didn't realize how the Muslims and *lumad* have gone through. I can see we shared the same fate."

The full story has been finally told and shared, this time accepted with an open mind and sensitivity.

THE WAY home for residents of Dingalan, Aurora, is the only way to go no matter if home is a wreck. Rebuilding begins and life goes on. REM ZAMORA

RELIEF has come at last for these children in Dingalan, Aurora, one of the hardest hit by the successive storms that battered the country. For starters, a ball and stuffed toys bring smiles to the children, and about time, too. REM ZAMORA

GMA suspends all logging

From page A1

program to prevent the recurrence of deadly floods.

• A longstanding proposal in the Senate by Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. calling for a 25-year total log ban gained ground, with more than a dozen senators pledging to support his Senate Bill No. 1150.

Environment officials estimate the country's actual forest cover at seven million hectares.

About 200,000 hectares of forest areas are destroyed annually through legal and illegal logging, and slash-and-burn farming, Pimentel said. Other experts say less than 3 percent of the country's primary forest remains intact.

• In the House of Representatives, Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said most congressmen backed a similar total log ban proposal and predicted a law to that effect would be passed in "record time."

Heinous criminals

"We are determined to make those responsible for widespread death and destruction pay the price for their misdeeds, and we shall prosecute them the way we do terrorists, kidnappers, drug traffickers and other heinous criminals," Ms Arroyo said in her statement.

"I urge Congress to amend existing environmental laws to promulgate stiffer penalties against illegal loggers and their cohorts, including erring government officials and law enforcers who are abetting the destruction of our forest lands," she said.

Malacañang backed the dismissal of officials found to have tolerated or benefited from illegal logging activities.

"This thing could not have happened without the knowledge of some officials so it is important that a thorough investigation is conducted," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said on RMN radio.

Evidence needed

Bunye said Ms Arroyo was bent on going after illegal loggers by appointing retired Gen. Victor Corpus as reforestation czar. *(Story on Page A1.)*

Asked about allegations linking the family of an opposition senator to illegal logging in Aurora, Bunye said this should be left to the proper authorities to look into.

"It's not good to name names without evidence. I'm sure that there will be an investigation and that is already being done by the [DENR]," he said.

Nograles said logging licenses should be suspended until Congress had adopted a stand on the proposed 25-year logging ban.

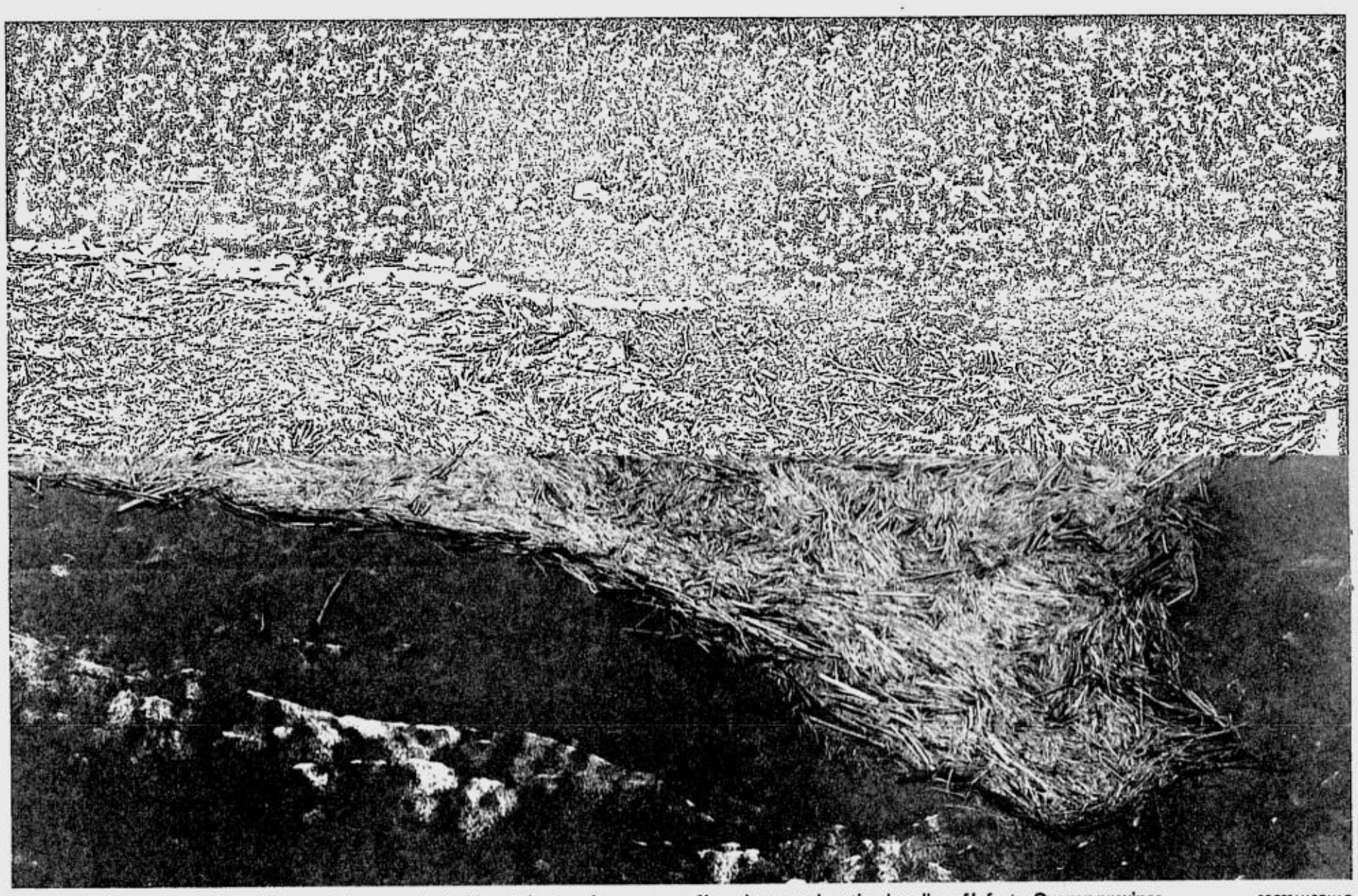
"We don't want these logging companies to cut everything that is within their concession area in anticipation of this total log ban measure so I recommend the immediate suspension of all logging licenses," he said.

Nograles said the tragedy that struck the country should serve as a wake-up call for Congress.

Give nature time

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay wanted a more thorough study of the log ban proposal.

Pichay stressed that the imposition of a total log ban could be counter-productive.



COMPUTE the sum total of the violence of the storms by looking at the tumultuous array of logs that now clogs the shoreline of Infanta, Quezon province. ROGER MARGALLO

"We saw this in Negros, where a total log ban was imposed in 1982 to protect its forest cover which had dwindled to just 30 percent. But what happened after the ban?" he said. "In just three years, the forest cover in Negros fell to only 8 percent because of rampant wood-cutting and illegal logging which the authorities were powerless to stop."

Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy and Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio called on the police and the Armed Forces to revamp personnel manning checkpoints for failure to monitor log transports.

Pimentel warning

"Illegal loggers will find it hard to neutralize the DENR-AFP-PNP monitoring teams because their members will be constantly replaced to discourage connivance," said Uy.

In the Senate, members of both the administration and opposition blocs expressed support for Pimentel's log ban bill, although with some reservations.

Failure to adopt the measure would "spell more ecological disasters of catastrophic proportions in the future," Pimentel warned. He said his bill had been repeatedly blocked by powerful logging interests since it was first proposed in 1987.

"We must put the survival of our forests and preservation of ecological balance over and above the selfish economic interests of a privileged few," he said.

10 years in jail

Under Senate Bill 1150, any violator of the law shall be penalized with five to 10 years in jail. If the violator is a juridical entity, its license or permit to do business in the country shall be automatically revoked and it shall be fined from P500,000 to P5 million.

Industrial tree plantations will not be covered by the prohibition so that they can meet the wood requirements of the paper, construction and furniture industries.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Jamby Madrigal, Edgardo Angara, Manuel Villar and Richard Gordon interposed no objections to the measure.

Minority supports bill

Pimentel said "most" of the nine-member minority would support his bill.

Although confident that the bill would not face rough sailing in the Senate, Pimentel admitted some members of the Lower House might oppose the idea, "unless [Ms Arroyo] pushes for it very strongly."

Sen. Pia Cayetano agreed in principle to a halt in logging operations in major timber areas but was worried about its impact on the livelihood of people subsisting on small logging operations.

Madrigal proposed a longer ban—maybe 50 years—to allow the forests to replenish themselves.

Pimentel said that of the country's 15 million hectares of forest at the start of the 20th century, less than seven million hectares were left, including 800,000 hectares of virgin forest.

Role of prisoners, students

Gordon's proposed bill would allow prisoners and student volunteers to take part in reforestation in areas accessible to them.

"I will ask that even prisoners who are not hardened criminals be sent to plant trees on mountains," Gordon said.

Only inmates convicted or awaiting judgment for petty or minor crimes would be enlisted in the reforestation campaign, he said.

FOOTNOTE to disaster: Melvin and Leigh Serrano made it through inch-deep muddy trails with their twins Ivory and Ivon before they were airlifted from Infanta to Camp Nakar in Lucena City. ROGER MARGALLO

He said that to allow students to do their share, tree-planting could be incorporated into their curricula or serve as an alternative to the Reserved Officers Training Course.

Subpoena Defensor

Leaders of the left-leaning fisherfolk alliance Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) urged lawmakers to investigate large-scale logging operations in Aurora and Quezon.

Pamalakaya urged the Senate to subpoena Defensor and demand from him the master list of all logging corporations operating in the two provinces. *With a report from Tina G. Santos, AFP*

CHILD at play is safely within his parents' world at the evacuation center at the Dingalan Central Elementary School. REM ZAMORA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

METRO

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

6/42 Luzon/Vis-Min
5 22 26 28 31 40

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SUERTRES
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(In exact order)

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Cops in trouble with the law get help

By Leila B. Salaverria

EVEN policemen can have their brush with the law.

When such a thing happens in Manila, law enforcers have someone to give them legal advice and aid.

The Legal Assistance for Manila Policemen (Lamp) was put up in 2002 by retired lawman Jaime Santiago to help the men in uniform.

"I know the plight of policemen. They are always being harassed. When they do their job, people they arrest are never happy," Santiago, who became known for being a sharpshooter of the Western Police District (WPD).

Harassed

"How can policemen maintain peace and order if they themselves are being harassed?" he added.

Santiago said a private lawyer usually charges P10,000 or more as acceptance fee and P5,000 for every appearance in court or at the prosecutor's office.

Then comes the dilemma.

According to Santiago, a policeman's pay was not enough to cover the costs of litigation.

This kind of situation, he said, forces some policemen to get financing in other ways.

"Because of the legal fees they have to pay, some policemen resort to corruption," he said.

Santiago said corruption comes in at least two forms: "public relations" and outright extortion.

Public relations means borrowing money from "patrons."

This practice makes the lawman beholden to a person and may affect the future performance of his duties, he said.

To help good policemen stay good Lamp provides them with inexpensive legal service. But first, a Manila policeman should become a member of the group.

For P500, a Manila policemen can become a lifetime member of Lamp, which entitles them to a huge discount in services.

Low fees

The case acceptance fee of Lamp lawyers is P2,000 per case for members, while the appearance fee ranges from P500 to P1,000.

While Santiago founded Lamp, he has left the organization after becoming an assistant city prosecutor in Manila in October 2003.

Lamp is now handled by his former law classmates Wilhelmina Macaraeg, Joselito Frial and Salvador Estabillo.

"I convinced them about the need to help policemen by informing them of the latter's plight," Santiago said.

Macaraeg said Lamp currently has over 1,000 members and has handled over 100 cases.

Although formed to help law enforcers from the WPD, Lamp at times accepts clients from police districts outside Manila.

FORMER police sharpshooter Jaime Santiago aimed for a different target when he formed a lawyers' group that aims to provide inexpensive legal service to lawmen. RUDY ESPERAS

Santiago said Lamp usually would not turn away these policemen, especially when endorsed by friends.

Most of the cases handled by Lamp deal with complaints of robbery extortion, physical injuries, administrative cases, drugs, trespass to dwelling, breach of the peace, assault and oral defamation.

Macaraeg said policemen who come to them with personal cases were charged a slightly higher acceptance fee.

She related that some of their clients were prompt in they payments, while some were late. "But that's okay," Macaraeg said.

She said the policemen unable to immediately settle their accounts eventually pay their dues.

"Sometimes policemen give me fruits or cell phone load when they cannot yet pay me in cash," said Macaraeg, adding that being able to help lawmen in trouble was enough to make her happy.

She said it was best for policemen to get a lawyer's help when faced with a legal complaint.

"A lawyer's assistance is important," Macaraeg said.

Familiar need

The importance of the service provided by Lamp was something Santiago knew only too well.

When Santiago was with the WPD as a member of its Special Weapons and Tactics team, he was charged for the fatal shooting of a man who had taken a child hostage.

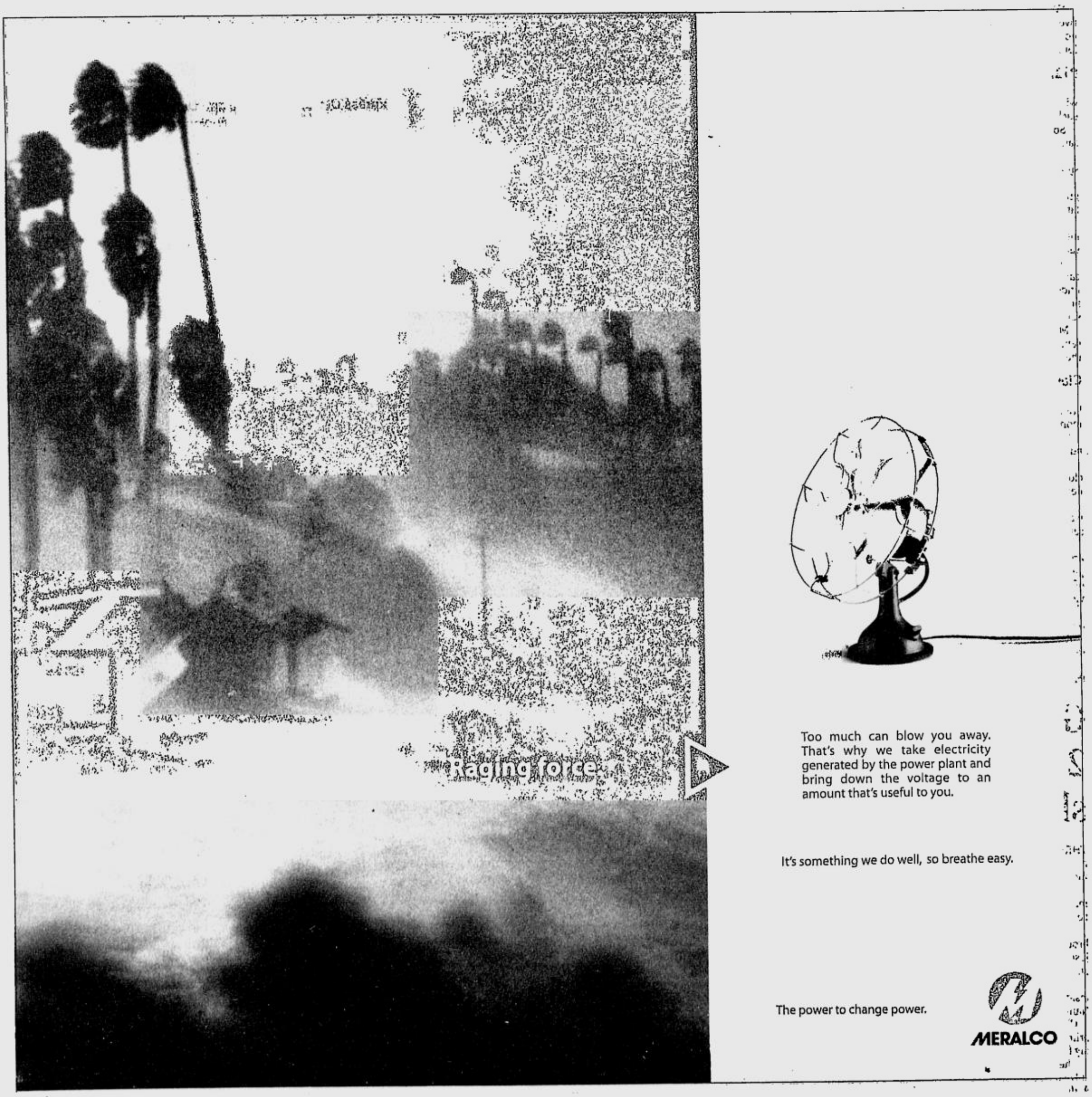
While the case against him was being evaluated by the Manila Prosecutors Office, he got into a fight with one of the prosecutors. Soon, he said, no Manila prosecutor wanted to hear his case.

The case was later brought to the Department of Justice, where it was subsequently dismissed.

He said that experience heightened his resolve to give policemen access to lawyers.

The 46-year-old Santiago had served the police force for 21 years before deciding to retire early in 2001.

It was during his stint as a policeman that he became a lawyer, passing the bar on his first take in 1994 with a grade of 81.65 percent.



Aid pours in for typhoon, flood victims

By Leila B. Salaverria

IT WILL be pouring again in areas devastated by rain and floods although this time people will be coming out to welcome the downpour.

Instead of rain and floods, this shower will be of aid and relief from all over the world.

Yesterday, the European Union's executive arm released one million euros (P75,000,000) in emergency aid for victims of devastating storms in the country.

Appeal sent out by the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) has produced P43 million worth of donations and pledges, according to PNRC secretary general Victor Liozo in a statement.

On top of these, World Vision, an international nongovernment organization that focuses on child welfare and community development, has promised P35 million in relief goods.

And on a much smaller, yet more personal way, members of the Coast Guard have set sail to Quezon on board Barko ng Republika ng Pilipinas San Juan to bring aid and provide medical services to victims.

Pinoys in Hong Kong

Meanwhile, the Filipino professionals working in Hong Kong donated P100,000 to the relief effort.

The donation was coursed through the Philippine Daily Inquirer by Leo A. Deocadiz, vice chair of the Philippine Assocation of Hong Kong.

Deocadiz, a former PDI business editor, now publishes The Sun, a Filipino community paper in the Special Administrative Region of China.

As many as 1,000 people have been reported killed or missing after two storms and two tropical depressions swept in close succession through many parts of the country. *(See related story on page A1.)*

The European Commission said its one-million euro donation would be channeled through aid agencies in the devastated areas to provide immediate relief such as emergency shelters, water and sanitation.

"In situations like this, it is our duty to respond immediately," EU aid commissioner Louis Michel said, while adding that a commission relief official has been sent to survey longer-term needs.

The Belgian government, meanwhile, said it was giving 30,000 euros (P2.26 million) toward the relief effort in the Philippines.

With the surge of donations following the appeal by PNRC chair Sen. Richard Gordon, the group said it had intensified its relief effort by sending truckloads of food and non-food items to Red Cross chapters in typhoon-affected provinces.

Three-day supply

Gordon said the P43 million that the PNRC received would only cover the immediate needs of worst hit families, who will receive food supply for three days and starter kits.

Food will consist of rice, canned goods, noodles and dried fish, while the starter kits will include cooking and eating utensils, water containers and sleeping materials.

Gordon said the PNRC would need some P57 million more for sustained relief operations.

He added they aim to serve at least 50,000 families, but so far had served only 12,000 families.

For its part, World Vision said it would be providing relief goods to 21,500 families in Quezon, which was one of the areas hardest hit by the recent weather disturbance.

Dabs Liban said they would focus on the towns of Real, Infanta and Camp Nakar, where each beneficiary family will get 25 kilos of rice, four liters of water, a can of biscuits, canned goods, noodles, blankets, flashlights and medicine.

For the long-term, the group plans to build water systems and install generators to help victims rebuild their lives and their communities.

Serving in the manner they know best, the Coast Guard sent one of its ships to Quezon to help bring much needed supplies, which could not be brought over by land or air.

The BRP San Juan left Manila at 2:25 a.m. yesterday and is expected to arrive today in Real.

It has a medical team and an operating room to serve those most in need of medical attention.

Coast Guard Commandant Vice Admiral Arthur Gosingan flew to Real yesterday to assess the damage. ***With a report from AFP***

Lawyers group helps suspects get due process

By Nancy C. Carvajal

CRIME suspects can themselves become victims.

Fifteen-year-old Anna (not her real name) has been detained at the Parañaque City Jail since November facing murder charges.

Two other minors, both 13-year-old boys, have also been in jail for theft, detained with grown-up law offenders.

The two boys are accused of stealing P880 and two cans of corned beef.

The canned goods were recovered and P820 was returned to the owner after they were arrested the next day.

"We bought pancit, soft drinks and played two sets of billiards with the P60 that we were not able to return," the two minors said in Filipino.

P12,000 bail

The two 13-year-old minors were charged with robbery and bail was placed at P12,000 each.

Something was wrong, a group of lawyers said.

The children, although facing charges, should not be mixed with adult suspects.

Roger Sison, a member of the volunteer group Pro Bono, said Anna's rights were violated.

She should be under the care of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, he said.

"Because she is a minor, her legal counsel can ask the court to let her go back to school under the supervision of DSWD and should not be incarcerated at a detention jail," Sison said.

Meanwhile, the two other minors can be sent to reform institutions or can be placed in the custody of their parents or guardians.

Close monitoring

Sison said they would coordinate with the lawyers of these minors and would closely monitor their progress.

"We hope that they will be home with their family this Christmas," he added.

Pro Bono, according to Sison, is a group of close to 50 volunteer lawyers funded by businessmen, whom he refused to name.

"Suffice to say that these businessmen want to do their share without publicity," he said.

Pro Bono's objectives, according to Sison, are to assist and provide legal assistance to persons unduly oppressed, unjustly accused of crime, unable to hire services of counsel, victims of human rights violations and others.

"This is also our way of helping de-congest our jails," he said.

Records showed that 826 inmates were detained in a jail designed for 300.

Thirty six of those detained at the Parañaque City jail are minors.

Gunmen kill 2 in Marikina shooting

THREE motorcycle-riding suspects ambushed a soldier and his live-in partner yesterday morning in Marikina City, the police said.

The police identified the victims as Army man Victor de los Santos, 29, and Rhea Ann Fernandez, 23.

"The suspect was looking for the victim's brother. When he could not find his target, he just shot the victims," Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas Jr., city police chief, said.

The soldier and his partner were walking inside the Balubad Settlement in Barangay Nangka when the suspects struck.

Chief investigator SPO4 Celso Cruz said the prime suspect, a certain "Michael," was looking for the brother of De los Santos.

The brother, Elmer, was reportedly involved in a love triangle with Michael. *Luige A. del Puerto*

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BOXING: Yanig sa Taguig Primer; 7:30 p.m.; Solar Sports—Get a head start on Manny Pacquiao's upcoming fight.

BASKETBALL: US NCAA-Duke vs Valparaiso; 10 a.m. (r-6 p.m.); Michigan vs Notre Dame; 4 p.m. (r); ESPN—Coach K's Blue Devils face off against the Crusaders while the Wolverines clash with the Fighting Irish.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

Sta. Lucia faces Shell; Pals vs Tigers

FRESH from taming the best team in the conference, Sta. Lucia Realty tries to drop the upset ax on another big fish when it faces Shell today at the resumption of the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

STANDINGS	W	L
Talk 'N Text	10	2
Barangay Ginebra	9	4
Shell	9	5
Purefoods	7	6
San Miguel Beer	6	7
Red Bull	5	7
FedEx	5	8
Coca-Cola	5	9
Alaska	5	9
Sta. Lucia Realty	4	8

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk N Text
6:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Shell

The Realtors, still in a state of bliss after squeezing past the leading Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in a recent out-of-town encounter, will be oozing with confidence in their 6:30 p.m. date against the Turbochargers.

After a 0-6 start, the Realtors (4-8) have won four of their last six games, punctuated by a 104-102 squeaker over the Phone Pals last Tuesday.

The Phone Pals, still in the lead at 10-2, hope to recover lost ground against the floundering Coca-Cola Tigers in the curtain-raiser at 4 p.m.

The Tigers (5-9) will have to watch out for Jimmy Alapag and Willie Miller, one of the hottest backcourt tandems in the league, to avoid a fifth straight setback.

Marlou Aquino fired 29 points against the Phone Pals and is expected to give Shell a lot of match-up problems along with Dennis Espino and Kenneth Duremdes.

The Turbochargers are running third behind Talk N Text and Barangay Ginebra at 9-5 following their win over the Alaska Aces last Wednesday.

Humbled by the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs only last Thursday, the Tigers are in dire need of a victory.

Coach Chot Reyes said Coca-Cola's problem is internal, adding that the Tigers have yet to play as one cohesive unit following the trade that gave them Ali Peek and John Arigo from the Aces.

"We experienced the same phenomenon before the team won two championships beginning in 2002. It normally happens to teams which tinkered with their lineups," said Reyes.

The same holds true for the Aces, who are playing inconsistent ball since acquiring Jeffrey Cariaso and Reynel Hugnatan from the Tigers.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ NCR booters tackle Davao in semifinals /A26

■ Spurs spoil return of Wallace /A28

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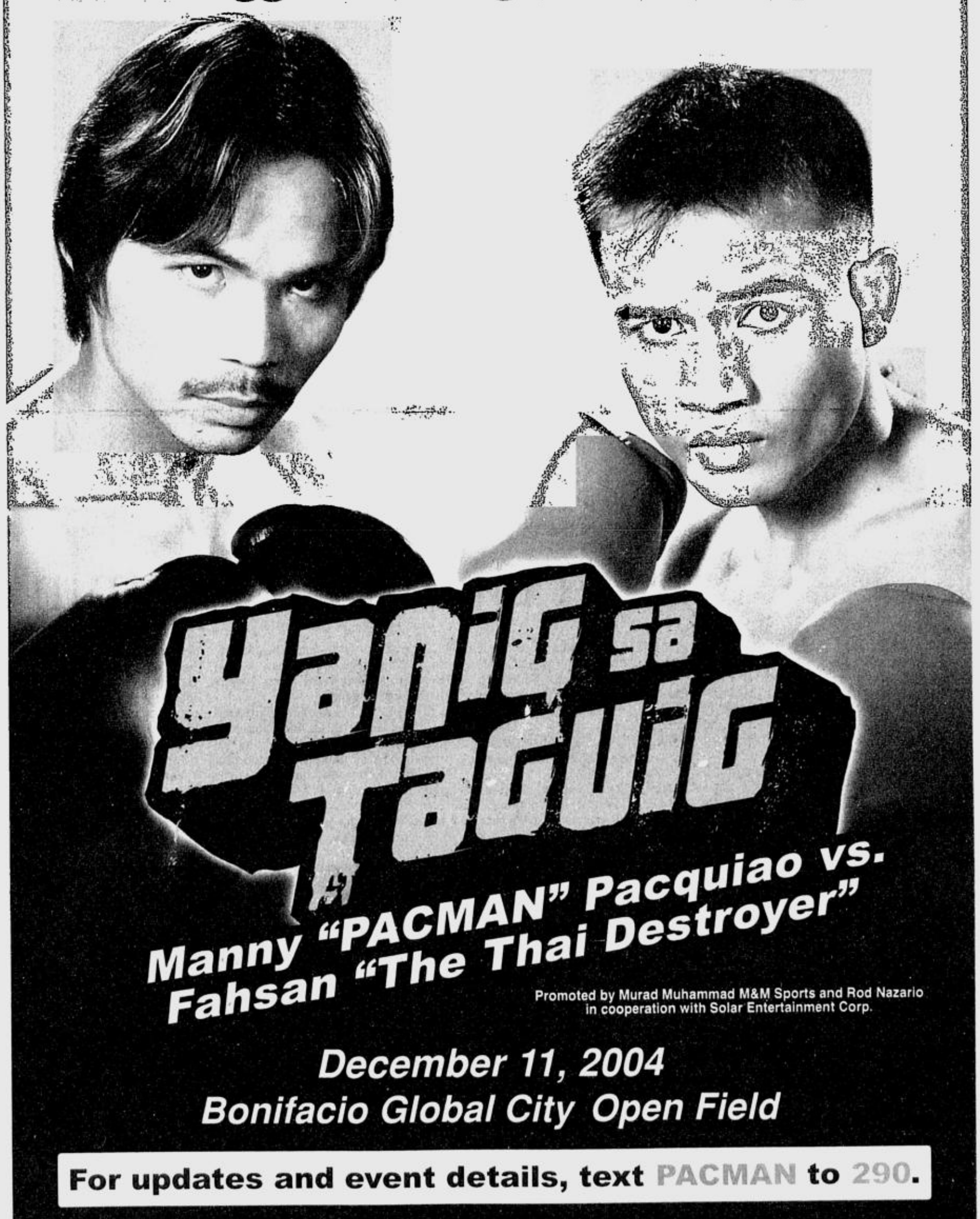

Manny "PACMAN" Pacquiao vs. Fahsan "The Thai Destroyer"

Promoted by Murad Muhammad M&M Sports and Rod Nazario in cooperation with Solar Entertainment Corp.

December 11, 2004
Bonifacio Global City Open Field

For updates and event details, text PACMAN to 290.

Tickets are available in all SM Ticketnet outlets and Wildcard Boxing Gym.
Ticket Prices: P10,000 / P5,000 / P2,500 / P1,000 / P100

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12:00 nn (delayed telecast)
Learn more about your favorite players and the NBA on NBA JAM! 12:30 PM on RPN | Replay 8pm on SOLAR SPORTS

PSC spikers gun for 3rd win vs Lady Tams

By Musong R. Castillo

COACH Tats Suzara swears that his Philippine Sports Commission team is in the Shakey's V-League only to inspire the younger set of players.

He never thought he would be making an entire crowd rally behind a set of veterans plucked out from odd jobs and retirement to dominate a young league with a young field.

"The crowd has started enjoying the way we play," Suzara said moments after nailing down a second victory in the fledging league. "It has given my players the extra wave of confidence and the boost to play harder."

Play hard is what the PSC Lady Spikers have done and will do once again when they collide at 1 p.m. today with a Far Eastern side itching to become the first to claim their scalp at the resumption of the eliminations at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"This has become a different story. We're winning games and it feels good," Suzara added, not minding the fatigue factor that could affect his team which will be playing their third game in seven days.

STANDINGS	W	L
PSC	2	0
Santo Tomas	1	0
Letran	1	0
Far Eastern	0	1
La Salle	0	1
Lyceum	0	1
San Sebastian	0	1

GAMES TODAY (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
1 p.m.—PSC vs Far Eastern
3 p.m.—Letran vs Santo Tomas

"Of course, fatigue can be a factor. But we have come up with a training program to avoid burnout for the players early. We know that this is a long tournament and that we could be playing every other day. We did something for that," said Suzara, whose players have an average age of 34.

Meanwhile, defending champion Santo Tomas clashes with Letran, seeking a second straight victory after ripping La Salle in four sets in the inaugurals Sunday last week.

The Tigresses trade spikes with the Lady Knights in the 3 p.m. contest installed as the logical picks because of a lineup already teeming with talent and reinforced by two nationals.

Roxanne Pimentel and Rubie de Leon are standing at the vanguard of the Santo Tomas offense.

"If I can get this team to be consistent, we can go a long way in this tournament," said August Sta. Maria, the man behind the successful Santo Tomas volley program the last 25 years.

"We have the talent, true. But winning tournaments takes more than that and that is what I am trying to tell my players every day."

Futsal tilt on with 4 games

GAMES TODAY (*Iloilo Sports Complex*)
1 p.m.—Opening ceremonies
2 p.m.—Iloilo vs Laguna
3:30 p.m.—Oriental Mindoro vs Bacolod
5 p.m.—Tarlac vs Cebu
6:30 p.m.—Rizal vs Cagayan de Oro

ILOILO CITY—Iloilo, a traditional football power, collides with Laguna as the first PFF-adidas Futsal Championship kicks off today with an explosive 4-game bill at the Iloilo Sports Complex covered court here.

After an austere opening rites at 1 p.m., to be graced by top local officials as well as the top brass of the Philippine Football Federation and the sponsoring adidas, Iloilo and Laguna clash at 2 p.m. Bacolod, the host's arch rival, opens its title bid against Oriental Mindoro at 3 p.m. while Cebu, another team to watch in the four-day affair organized by the Iloilo Football Federation and hosted by the provincial government headed by Gov. Neil D. Tupas, tangles with Tarlac at 5 p.m.

Cagayan de Oro, which arrived here as early as Thursday, faces dangerous Rizal Province at 6:30 p.m. with the hopes of stealing the limelight from the big guns being the only team from Mindanao.

PFF president Johnny Romualdez sees a tough but exciting battle for the championship as all eight teams are raring to become the first champion team of the five-a-side indoor game which is a combination of soccer and basketball.

"It's going to be a close and exciting contest, all teams are capable of winning the championship," said Romualdez who expects a huge crowd to watch the event since the Ilonggos are known for their passion for soccer.

Futsal is an abbreviation of the Spanish "futbol sala," meaning "indoor soccer." Unlike the regular soccer match, each team will field only five players, including the goalkeeper, and will play for 40 minutes on a basketball-size court.

"So expect a fast and furious action from Day 1," said tournament Commissioner Pablito Araneta of this indoor sport which is now a big hit in Europe and some parts of the Middle East. "Everybody can play this sport and this is good for our budding soccer players."

The eight teams will be divided into two groups with the top two teams after the single-round elims advancing to the crossover semifinals. There the No. 1 team of Group A faces the No. 2 team of Group B and the top team of Group B battles the No. 2 of Group A.

"Futsal is an ideal manner of promoting football among the basketball-loving Filipinos," said Romualdez. "The game is normally played indoors and the ball used is smaller and less bouncy than a normal football so it doesn't fly all over."

CDN PHOTO/TONEE DESPOJO

CEBUANO booter Michael Sharpe (right) is hugged by Peter Dionella after scoring a goal.

ADIDAS U-19

NCR booters tackle Davao in semifinals

THE NATIONAL Capital Region (NCR) football squad joined reigning champion Iloilo, Davao and host Cebu in the semifinal stage of the PFF/adidas Under-19 Championship with a 4-1 rout of Iligan Friday at the University of San Carlos pitch in Talamban, Cebu City.

The Metro Manila teenagers, although undefeated in Group B, finished behind rivals Iloilo by goal difference. Davao topped Group A followed by the hosts.

With Philippine football's natural order in place, the 'do-or-die' semifinal crossover kicks off today at 10 a.m. with NCR taking on Davao followed by the duel of two Visayan squads at 1 p.m.—Cebu versus Iloilo. The winners collide on Monday for the premiere Under-19 trophy in the country today.

Iligan, solid at the back like good Italian defenders for 73 minutes, crumbled to NCR's Mark Lusung by allowing the striker two goals in the next five minutes. Additional goals by Francis Liza and Sean Gepaya ended an otherwise engrossing game. It was a disappointing finish by Iligan which got its consolation goal from Kevin Deano on the 81st minute.

Mindanao-side Dipolog came from a goal down in a Group A game to defeat Baguio, 2-1, in a no-barring match. Dipolog's Edwin Envidiado leveled on 29 minutes and Reginald Jukes sealed the result six minutes after the break to give Dipolog its only win in the tournament. Baguio's Mark Signabon gave the highlanders their early 20th minute lead.

The PFF/adidas U-19 Championship is the official 'Under-19' tournament of the Philippine Football Federation. It is managed and organized in Cebu by the Cebu Football Association of which Jonathan Maximo is president.

U-14 champions coming to Manila

UNDER-14 champion football teams from Bukidnon, San Carlos City-Negros Occidental, Laguna, Baguio and a dozen more provinces are expected to troop into Metro Manila to compete in the single-day, seven-a-side PFF/Red Ribbon Football Festival on Dec. 19 at the Ateneo de Manila University grounds.

The Philippine Football Federation, the LEAD Institute for Sport and the Red Ribbon Bakeshop are working together to get as many kid-footballers, 12 years old or younger, to participate in this big year-ending festival that hopes to showcase the finest players in that age category.

The PFF and LEAD have partnered to put together a National Under-14 team for Asean and Asian competitions next year and have agreed that the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta and the forthcoming PFF/Red Ribbon Football Festival are ideal tournaments to scout for young potentials.

Events manager Ed Formoso said several of the 30 provincial football associations that staged 'football fiestas' have already confirmed participation and are excited at the prospect of playing against Manila boys—who could have as many as 20 clubs and school teams in this competition.

Formoso added that the festival will also serve as the 'championship day' of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta were Colegio San Agustin, Ateneo, Marist School, Cheng Hua, Xavier and Southridge School remain in contention.

Domeka Garamendi, deputy general secretary of the Federation, also announced that interested youth clubs and teams may call Risha Ortega at the PFF office at 6871594 or text inquiries to Everything Futbol Promotions at 0916-3660369.

This weekend's games of the Red Ribbon Football Fiesta have been postponed due to the effects of typhoon Yoyong.

Fita names Acop int'l judge, accredits 8 other officials

FORMER Southeast Asian Games champion Jocelyn Guerrero Acop has been named international judge by the Fita while eight others have been accredited international judges by the Asian Archery Federation (AAF).

The most bemedaled Filipino athlete in the 1977 SEAG, Acop officiated in the Athens Olympics, making her only the second Filipino to act as an Olympic judge. The first was Dumaguete City's Dionisio Flores, now NAAP vice president, who officiated in the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Both Flores and the only other Filipino international judge, the late NAAP president Ramon A. Lim, were each presented a Fita Diploma as judge emeritus, the highest award for international judges.

Incumbent archery head Dr. Lenora Fe S. Brawner of Baguio City leads seven other Filipinos who passed the recent AAF examination for regional judges conducted by Norway's Wilman Mortern. The others who made it as regional judges are Muntinlupa's Karla R. Cabrera, Fe. M. Empaynado, Dennis B. Torre, Mildred de Leon, Artemio Dupitas, Roberto Sta. Rosa and Marissa C. Austria.

NATIONAL CHAMP: National women's indoor champion Abigail Tindugan is congratulated by Terry Lim, daughter of the late former NAAP president Ramon Lim, after receiving her medal from Lim's widow, Natividad (right), during the awarding ceremony of the recent 1st Ramon A. Lim Memorial Cup tournament.

John Hay, BGC host Rotary tilt

BAGUIO'S two famous golf courses—Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club are sponsoring the 19th RGFFP (Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines) tournament on Jan. 19-22 next year.

Around 500 Rotarian golfers and guests are expected to compete in the much-awaited "annual."

Coincidentally, the Rotary Movement turns 100 years while BGC Club celebrates its 100th year, both in 2005.

All par-3's of both golf courses will feature valuable hole-in-one prizes. Four par 3's per day will stake P1 million cash prize, four others P700,000 and another four holes offer an OSIM Massage chair. The remaining five par-3 holes will feature 3/pins green which offer an expensive watch, a Paul Harris Fellow membership and a flat screen TV as prizes.

In the last annual, Baguio's Romy Tio scored an ace to win a Honda Civic VTI and RC Las Piñas Francisco Molina made another ace to bag an Omega gold watch.

RC Baguio South copped the overall title with 291 Stableford points, 103 over RC Makati Ayala, which member Theodore Pascual emerged low gross winner.

For details, contact RGFFP secretariat through e-mail rgffp@yahoo.com or fax 721-5940 and look for Pauline Sevilla (09209199000) or Leah Grubat (09209087635).

RTU juniors score 1st NCRAA victory

RIZAL Technological University got back on its feet yesterday in the junior division of the 12th National Capital Region Athletic Association (NCRAA) basketball tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym.

Rookies Kevin Bascao and Raymund Miranda made it happen as RTU went on to put away Polytechnic University of the Philippines, 51-43.

Their hustle plays in the last four minutes enabled the Rizaleños to hold PUP scoreless for some three minutes.

This allowed RTU to post its first win after suffering two setbacks against two strong rivals in defending champion Colegio de San Lorenzo and St. Francis.

"Bumawi lang kami," said RTU coach Nicanor Macvalog as RTU joined PUP in moving behind unbeaten rivals St. Francis and Olivarez HS.

The St. Francis Dovelets came off with a 128-20 beating of EAC HS while Olivarez HS prevailed over Arellano, 81-79.

RTU tries to extend its winning run when it meets San Beda-Alabang at 2:30 p.m. today.

Trailing by a point with 3:13 left, Timothy Taclas scored on a drive to put the RTU ahead, 42-41.

Bascao led RTU with 15 points while Miranda and Taclas had 14 points apiece. His four freethrows with 1:25 left saw RTU pulling away by three.

Another charity by David Mariano with 40 ticks to go kept RTU ahead in the ensuing play.

The scores:

ST. FRANCIS 128— Sandoval 20, Arellano 18, Cruz 14, Gubantes 13, Calimlim 12, Galabin 11, Jumao-as 11, Ali Ali 8, Amado 6, Dicon 6, Caballero 5, Macaboso 4.

EAC 20— Sarvida 12, Malio 3, Abdul 2, Alonto 2, Tenorio 1.

Halftime: 64-10

OLIVAREZ COLLEGE 81— Vizcarra 31, Encela 16, Aranzaso 8, Canico 8, Rosal 5, Bulaong 5, Albanio 4, Sanchez 2, Ferreras 2.

ARELLANO 79—Villalobos 24, Arroyo 12, Reyes 7, Yeo 6, Umandap 6, De la Cruz 5, Galinba 5, Cifra 4, Caasi 4, Kee 2, Canlas 2, Ordonez 2.

Halftime: 48-44.

RTU 51—Bascao 15, Miranda 14, Taclas 14, Mariano 5, Chicote 3, Ancero 0.

PUP 43—Parreno 15, Navarro 8, Ricafort 8, Pontero 5, Abella 5, Binondo 2.Garcia 0.

Halftime: 21-18.

Arriba King tries to seal sprint crown

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

MIRROR, mirror on the racing wall, who's the fastest local galloper of 'em all?

The answer, by all means, points toward a six-year-old bay horse named Arriba King.

Blessed with a terrific burst of speed from the gates, Arriba King tries to seal that title for the 2004 season when he runs in the Grand Sprint Championship this afternoon at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

The odds are simply stacked in favor of Arriba King who is facing two challengers— one he had just manhandled in his last outing and the other a veritable unknown—in such seldom-held competition over 900 meters.

"Wag lang magbago ang magandang kundisyon tingin ko walang talo (As long as he maintains his good condition, I think he's unbeatable)," said star jockey Jonathan Hernandez, Arriba King's rider.

Facing Arriba King for the P300,000 first prize are Sacred Hall and Gallant Warrior to be booted by Dominador Borbe Jr. and Pat Dilema, respectively.

Sacred Hall, also a known speedball, clashed with Arriba King in the recent Marho Breeders' Cup Sprint but proved no match against the latter, while Gallant Warrior is joining the fray with nary a record to show that he has sprinting prowess.

Still, Sacred Hall and Gallant Warrior won't go home empty-handed in the event of an Arriba King win because the sponsoring Philracom under chair Jimmy Dilag and the Manila Jockey Club headed by lawyer Alfonso Reyno have put up a P112,500 prize for the runnerup and P62,500 for the third and last placer.

Last Nov. 27, Arriba King landed in local racing's history books when he topped the Marho Breeders' Cup Sprint for the third consecutive year, also under Hernandez.

Arriba King, sired by Alymar out of Carta Nueve, is enjoying his reign as the undisputed sprinter in the land today unlike in the previous years when Royal Marina faced stiff competition from Top Signature, and Hazmoore had a bitter rival in Amphitheatre.

Also featured today is the Roberto Reverente Cup, where former Presidential Gold Cup champion Free Wind is taking on classy import Being There, as well as Suonos and Lord of All over 1,600 meters.

Free Wind, to be guided by Dennis Camañero, is trying to bring back the glory days as he shoots for a win that would prime him up for another shot at the PGC crown on Dec. 12, but Being There, with Antonio Alcasid Jr. at the reins, will prove to be a tough customer today.

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Southern Prince 2. Super Wind 3. Nico's In Charge 4. Gun Powder
Race 2—1. Archer 2. Great Tower 3. Silver Music 4. Gifted Angel 5. Loaded
Race 3—1. Flying Jordan 2. Alexi's Magic
Race 4—1. Euro Bucks 2. Pandora 3. Patikim 4. Jedi 5. Daldalera
Race 5—1. Being There 2. Free Wind
Race 6—1. Refreshing/Seniority 2. Andee's Gold 3. Bronte 4. Mr. Lucas 5. Prickly Heat 6. Sir Brendan Jean
Race 7—1. Arriba King 2. Sacred Hall
Race 8—1. Shure Bull 2. Magic Dancer 3. Cuadro de Alas 4. Magic Dancer 5. King Yoji 6. Lord of the Ring/Western Dancer
Race 9—1. Marque 2. Ruah 3. District Three
Race 10—1. War Alert 2. Pyramid Relaunch 3. Air Force One 4. Hand in Hand 5. Flying Machine
Race 11—1. Mano Po 2. Stradivarius 3. Sky Bound 4. Soaring Free
Race 12—1. Say It's True 2. Heartland 3. Dulce My Love 4. Lady Be Gold
Race 13—1. Court General 2. Real Black 3. King Size 4. Mercurian 5. Salamat 6. Speed Advantage

Coseteng sets sight on N1 championship

HAVOLINE Racing Team's star driver Jody Coseteng, fresh from a Top 10 finish in the prestigious Guia Race of the Macau Grand Prix recently, will try to formalize his claim to the overall N1 championship in the 13th and 14th rounds of the Philippine National Touring Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas today.

COSETENG

Coseteng is a first-timer in the Macau Grand Prix but was able to hold his ground against the world's best drivers, leading the BRC's premier N1 division with 115 points, 10 points ahead of the second running Dominic Bon and 11 up on the third-ranked Rey Reyes.

"It would be nice to end the season with a victory or two," said Coseteng, of the Havoline team, which is powered by Vortex Gold and supported by Rota Wheels, Brembo Brakes, Hyper Parts, Gatorz Eyewear, Gaspeed Kolor Craft, Auto Trend, DZ Racing and Performance and Atoy Body Kits.

Backed by Caltex Havoline and San Miguel Strong Ice, Coseteng, a four-time Driver of the Year, scored two runner-up finishes in Rounds 11 and 12 to hike his total points by 24 and pull away from the pursuing pack.

Coseteng, actually, would not have broken away from the field if not for the valuable help of Havoline Team Captain Oscar Aguilar, who kept the erstwhile second-running Reyes to fourth place while running third majority of the way. The tactical move prevented Reyes from closing in on the Havoline top driver.

"This is the essence of being part of a team," said Havoline product manager. "Jody will be crowned champion of the centerpiece event, but it's a team victory. Everybody contributed immensely to Jody's coming title romp."

Coseteng, of course, is very much equipped to run away with circuit-racing's most prestigious plum after a successful showing in the Macau GP.

Ramirez 'Driver of the Year'

SUBIC—Louie Ramirez of Petron-SRA put his name in the record books when he emerged as the "Driver of the Year" in the 2004 SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway.

Finding little opposition, Ramirez finished second in the season-ending 14th round to cap his campaign and complete his rise as the seventh driver to win the title in the country's premier car racing competition organized by Sports Values Inc. and sponsored by Petron.

Overall, Ramirez finished with a 14-round aggregate of 92 points, 25 points ahead of his closest rival and older brother Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA in the Blaze super saloon event.

"To win the overall title," said Ramirez, "is a dream come true.

"I'm so happy to win and bring the title back to our family," added Ramirez, who joined the late Arthur Tuason (1994), Coseteng (1995, 1996, 2002, 2003), George Ramirez (1997, 1998), Miguel Ramirez (1999), Pocholo Ramirez (2000) and Ferdinand Ong (2001) as circuit racing champions.

RAMIREZ

Ramirez was also the fourth member of the Ramirez clan to win the crown after father Pocholo and brothers George and Miguel.

Only older brother Kookie has yet to win the title, although he has finished runner-up more than three times.

Ramirez completed a double victory when he also bagged the super saloon A plum over female driver Gabby de la Merced of Big Shot Billiards-Nike-Oakley.

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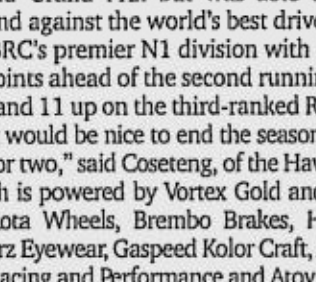

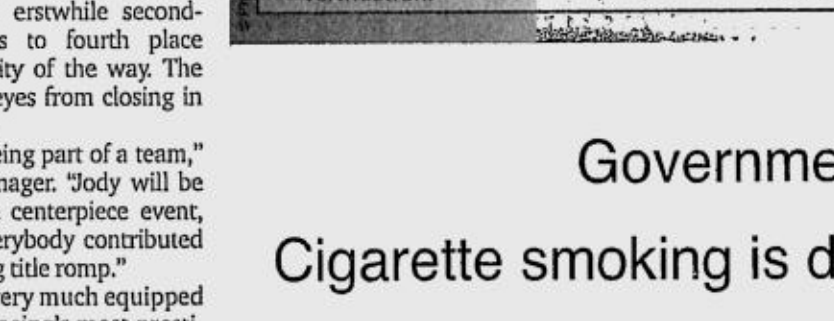

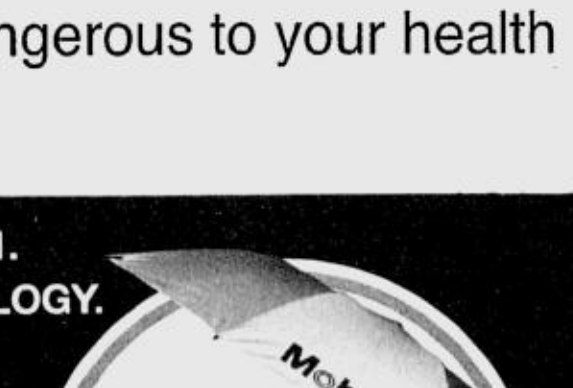

Promo runs from October 15 to December 31, 2004 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2345, Series of 2004
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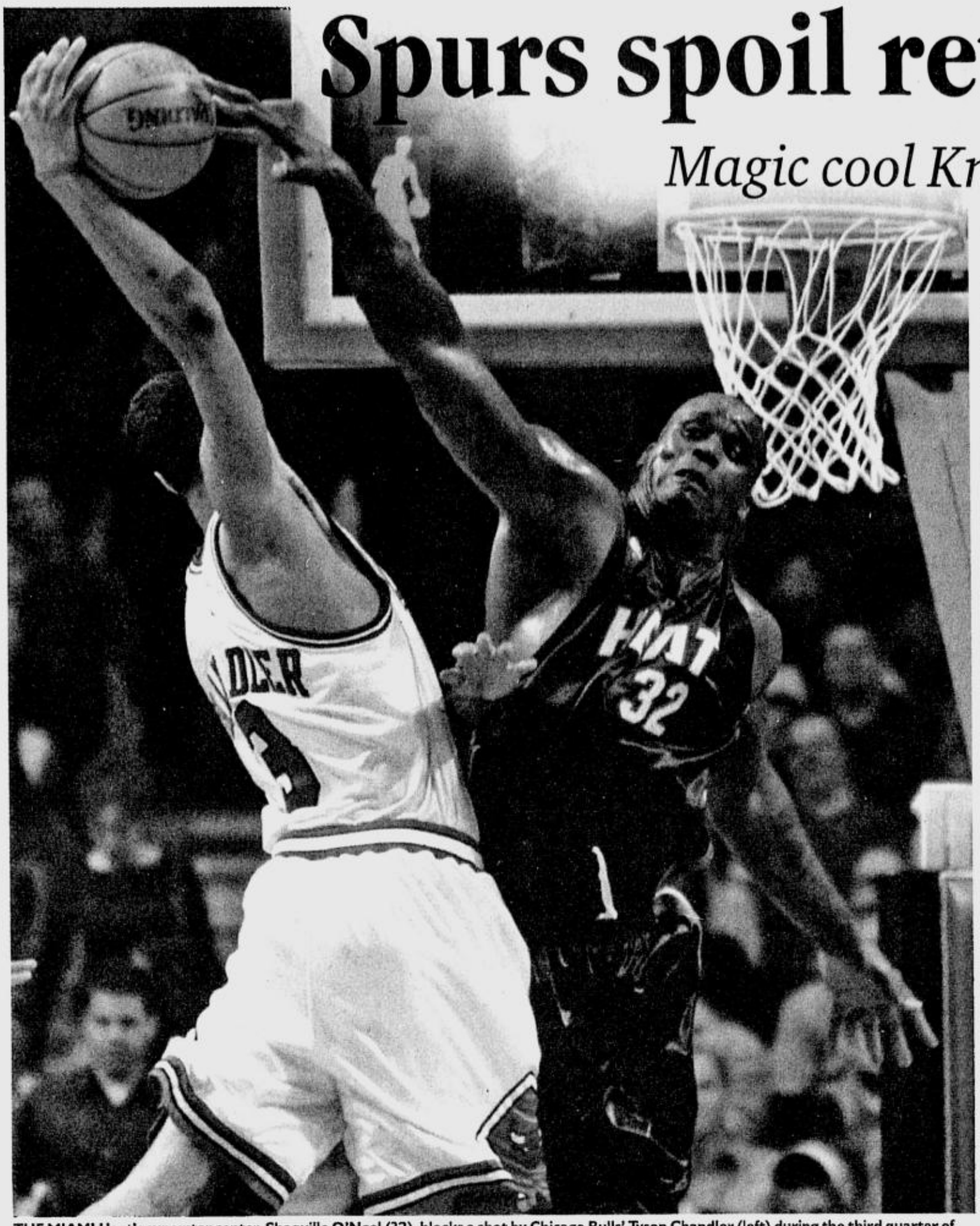
PHILIPPINE DA
SundayS

Spurs spoil return of Wal

Magic cool Knicks streak, Grizzlies e



THE MIAMI Heat's superstar center, Shaquille O'Neal (32), blocks a shot by Chicago Bulls' Tyson Chandler (left) during the third quarter of their game in Chicago. The Heat won the game, 105-81. AP

NEW YORK—Tony Parker scored 20 points and Brent Barry made two free-throws in the final seconds to give the San Antonio Spurs an 80-77 win over the Detroit Pistons Friday.

Detroit rallied to get within one point of the host Spurs after trailing by 21 but the Pistons came up short in a battle of the last two NBA champions.

Tim Duncan notched 18 points and 18 rebounds while teammate Manu Ginobili also had 18 points for the Spurs (14-3), who have the best record in the NBA.

Ben Wallace returned to the Detroit lineup after serving a six-game suspension for his part in the mass brawl against the Indiana Pacers last month. He was less than effective though, posting five points and pulling down nine rebounds in 33 minutes.

Chauncey Billups grabbed all 18 of his points in the fourth quarter for the defending champion Pistons, who slipped under the .500 mark at 7-8. Antonio McDyess added 13 points in a losing cause.

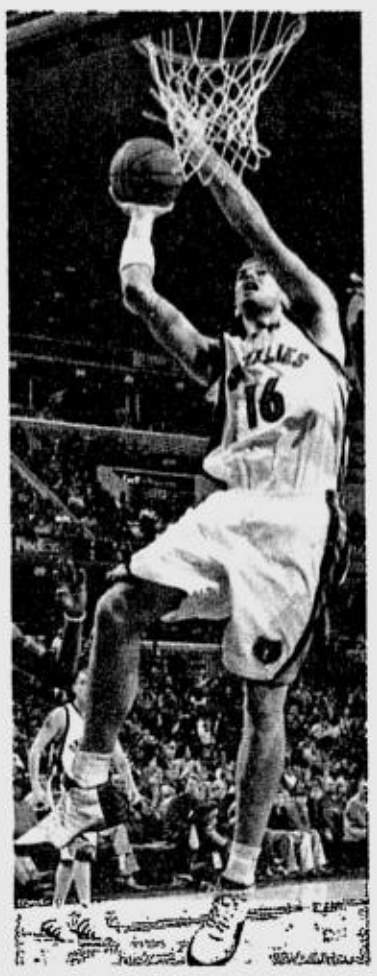
In New York, Cuttino Mobley poured in 34 points in his second game back from injury as the Orlando Magic cooled off the Knicks, 104-98.

Steve Francis had 26 points, seven rebounds, six assists and four steals for the Magic, who also received 21 points from Grant Hill.

Stephon Marbury recorded 28 points for the Knicks, whose six-game home winning streak was snapped.

In Atlanta, Larry Hughes scored 19 points to lead the Washington Wizards past the Hawks, 114-90.

Juan Dixon added 17 points for the Wizards (9-5), who went four games over .500 for the first time in three years.



PAU Gasol comes up huge for the Memphis Grizzlies. AFP

Antoine Walker registered 26 points for the Hawks while Al Harrington added 16. Atlanta (2-13) has lost eight straight.

In Boston, Mark Blount picked up 22 points, including the go-ahead basket in the final minutes, as the Celtics edged the Toronto Raptors, 91-89.

Gary Payton was held scoreless but he made a big defensive play in the last minute to help preserve Boston's win. Jalen Rose led Toronto with 19 points.

In Memphis, Pau Gasol amassed 34 points and 15 rebounds as the Grizzlies over-

Hong Kong Open: 3 share No. 1 spot

HONG KONG—Defending champion Padraig Harrington was tied for the lead with Miguel Angel Jimenez and James Kingston on 10-under-par at the end of the third round of the Hong Kong Open on Saturday.

Lurking one shot behind the leaders was a group of four, including former world No. 1 and six-time major winner Nick Faldo of England, who shot a third-round 65 to total 201.

Irishman Harrington, who began the day four shots behind overnight leader Jimenez, made five birdies and two bogeys as he carded three-under-par 67 to take a share of the lead going into Sunday's final round.

"I had hoped to build a buffer going into the last round but that was not to be," said Harrington. "There is still a lot of hard work ahead, but I'm still happy to be right in front."

Spaniard Jimenez could not find his touch with the putter and limped home with a one-over 71 to add to the 65 and 64 he shot in his first two rounds.

"I didn't feel like myself out there today," said Jimenez who is seeking his fifth title in 2004. "The pressure is on me now and there are a lot of dangerous players out there."

The biggest jump came from South African Kingston, who carded the lowest score of the day with an eight-under-par 62.

"To shoot 62 on what was probably the toughest day so far is quite pleasing," said Kingston, who had begun the day nine shots behind leader Jimenez.

"I felt I was swinging well and felt I needed to just go out there and be patient. It feels great to be in front."

Englishman David Howell, Thomas Bjorn of Denmark and Thailand's Thammanoon Srirot were tied for fourth with Faldo.

Faldo, looking to win his first tournament since 1997, was in inspired form as he shot seven birdies and two bogeys, coming home in style by draining two 25-footers for birdies on the 17th and 18th holes.

"I just kept plugging away and hit some very good shots," said Faldo. "I was putting well and it was very nice to finish in that fashion.

"If I continue to play like this, there is no reason why I cannot win this tournament. I have a great opportunity and I know what I have got to do to win."

Bjorn added a 65 to his earlier rounds of 69 and 67 to force himself into contention while Thai Thammanoon kept Asian hopes alive with a four-under-par 66. *Reuters*

O'Hara grabs AF3 pole position; Sy 4th

ROSARIO, Batangas—John O'Hara found himself in a familiar situation in the qualifying time trials of the Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 (AF3) Super Prix yesterday.

But the Irish driver, who placed only runner-up in two Philippine legs earlier this year despite emerging on top of the grid, is betting he saved his best effort for last.

O'Hara's time of one minute and 23.95 seconds in the 12th lap put the Shell Kinetic driver at pole position ahead of Australian Christian Jones (one minute and 13.6 seconds) and Indonesian Ananda Mikola (one minute and 97 seconds).

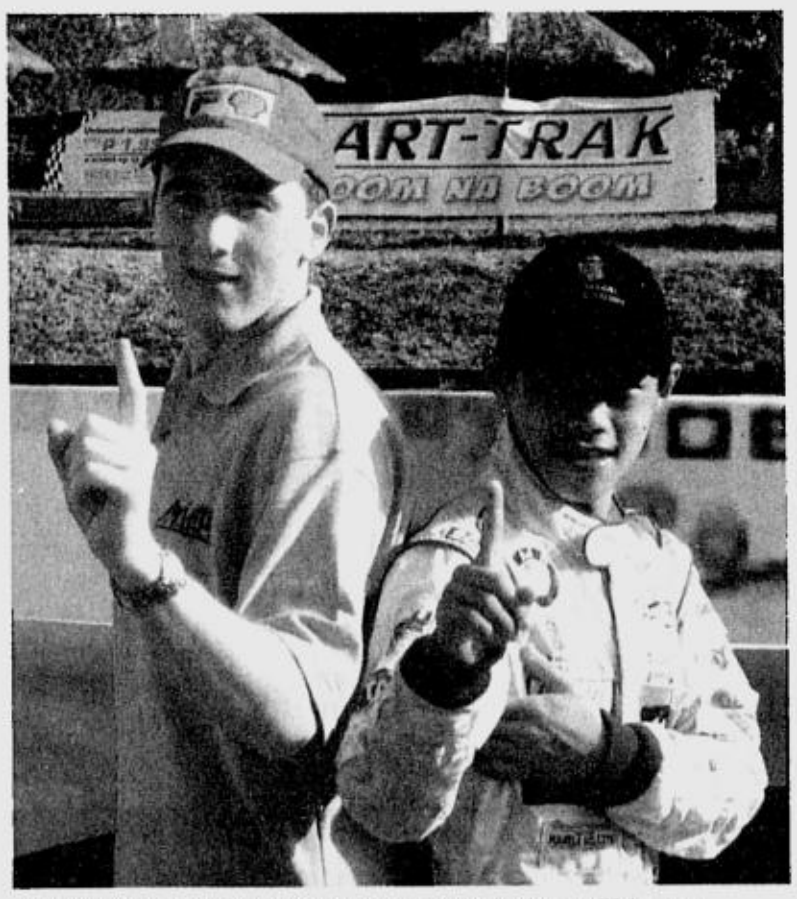
Tyson Sy, the AF3 prodigy, was the only Filipino in the top five. His time of one minute and 25.01 seconds put him at fourth in the Class A race today at the Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC).

But Sy's time was good for No. 1 in the promotions class in this season-ending AF3 leg sponsored by Yokohama, Denso, PLDT MyDSL, Top Gear, Manila Bulletin and NU 107.

Round Nine is scheduled to begin at 10:40 a.m. and the final round is set at 2:40.

Sy actually still had a chance to get past Mikola, a first-time driver at the BRC, but the teenage racing sensation eventually trailed the Indonesian by four-tenths of a second.

"I stuck to him as hard as I could, but he just pulled away," Sy said.



JOHN O'Hara and Tyson Sy were impressive in the qualifying run.

"It's a longshot but I believe anything can still happen. I'll try to be consistent; avoid any kind of accidents early to have a chance."

Sy, driving for Castrol Team Goddard-Minardi Team Asia, has accumulated 36 points over the last four stops.

He is tied with fellow Filipino Pepon Marave of Shell Kinetic F3.

Sy trails countryman Enzo Pastor of Fujitsu Ten Toyota Team TOM's in the race for top driver in the promotions class, or chassis built 1998 or prior. Pastor owns 58 points.

O'Hara currently leads all drivers for the AF3 Driver of the Year. But i six rounds against Jones, whos 108 points trail O'Hara's 111, th Irishman finished faster than Jone only once.

Not including the fifth round i Beijing, Jones emerged No. 1 fou times. The Australian swept th first four rounds in the openin stop in Batangas and the followin leg in Subic.

Asked how that will affect h psyche tomorrow, O'Hara said h felt more confident now.

"I'm better off now than in th first time I came here," O'Hara said "It's not that I'm going to lose slee tonight. I've made mistakes the fir time and I'll do my best not to mak them again."

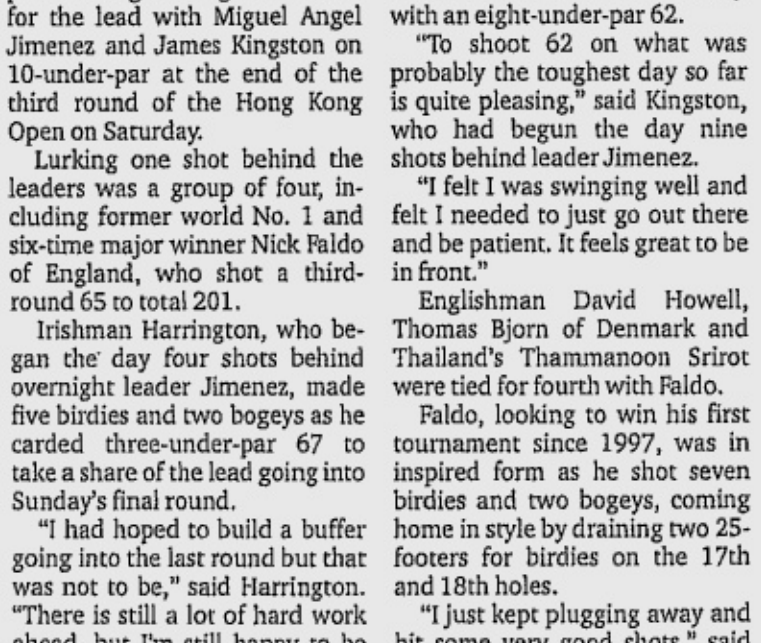
Mikola, his country's top drive who spent most of the year tourin Europe, is racing in the country fo the first time.

But the Indonesian didn't loo like it yesterday, negotiating th BRC with relative ease.

"I guess in races like this, yo don't want to look stupid," Mikol smiled. "When you come to jo any race, your goal is to win regard less if you're there the first time o not."

Mikola's brother, Moren Soeprapto, finished 10th overa but third in the promotions class.

British teenager Oliver Turve also a debuting Batangas drive placed fifth in the qualifiers an second behind Sy in the promo tions division.



JAMES Kingston of South Africa poses under the leaderboard after day three of the Omega Hong Kong Open at the Hong Kong Golf Club, Fanling. Kingston shares the lead with two others. AFP

Local tour rookie gains Australian PGA lea

COOLUM, Australia—Australian tour rookie James Nitties sank a one-meter birdie putt at the last hole to lead the Australian PGA Championship at Coolum on Saturday with one round to play.

After an absorbing tussle with Texan Bob Estes, Nitties walked off the final green with a one-shot lead at 14-under 202 heading into the deciding 18 holes on Sunday.

Nitties hit the perfect eight-iron onto the 18th green to put the pressure on Estes, who over-hit his approach and three-putted.

"I'm happy with the last hole, it changed the whole outlook for tomorrow," said Nitties, 22, who will again partner Estes in the final round.

Estes applied the heat to Nitties all through Saturday's round, his tee shots regularly splitting the fairways.

But the former top amateur, playing only his fourth professional tournament after one month on tour, stood up to the pressure and Estes missed a short putt on the 18th to save par for a share of the lead.

"I'm so frustrated I'm about to explode right now, but I'll get over it," Estes said.

"I played so good . . . and only shot two under. I should have at least shot five or six under, I hit it that good."

Nitties (67-65-70) finished their battle on 14 under with Estes (63-70-70) one shot back.

Former US Open winner C Pavin (67-70-67), defending ch pion Peter Senior (69-67-68) Peter O'Malley (68-67-69) wer well placed to win at 12-under 2

Australian Open winner P Lonard (69-65-71), shooting for third win in a row, was in conten on 11-under 205 after a big par ing putt on the last hole.

Greg Norman fired a luckless to be eight-under 208, six shots the pace.

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nd skid

the Philadelphia 76ers,
, to earn Mike Fratello
y in his debut as team
.
e loss snapped a five-game
g streak for the Grizzlies,
replaced Hubie Brown
Fratello earlier in the
.
en Iverson had 25 points
even steals for the Sixers
as 8-for-27 from the field
iladelphia lost its third
ht game overall and sixth
cession on the road.
Chicago, Christian Laet-
claimed 23 points as the
i Heat beat the Bulls, 105-

lie Jones added 21 points
he Heat while Dwyane
had 15 points, 10 re-
ds and eight assists. Kirk
ch totaled 17 points for
ulls.
Phoenix, Kevin Garnett
ibuted 23 points, 19 re-
ds and eight assists to help
Minnesota Timberwolves
ff the Suns, 97-93.
rell Sprewell scored 22
s and Sam Cassell 19 as
-Wolves won their fourth
ht to end Phoenix's nine-
winning streak.
are Stoudemire had 28
s for the Suns (13-3)
Shawn Marion notched
ints and 18 rebounds.
Sacramento, Chris Webber
ed 29 points as the Kings
heir 10th game out of 11
uting the Indiana Pacers,
7.
d Miller added 17 points
13 rebounds against his
r teammates.
Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant
led a triple-double with 10
. 12 rebounds and 10 assists
Lakers defeated the Golden
Warriors, 97-88.
on Butler added 27
s for the Lakers while
s Richardson scored 22
s for the Warriors.
Reuters

WALLACE: Back from the freezer AP

Jones to sue steroid use accuser

SAN FRANCISCO—US sprint queen Marion Jones says she'll sue accused steroid peddler Victor Conte over his allegations that she received banned drugs before winning five medals at the Sydney Olympics.

"Victor Conte's allegations about me are not true, and the truth will come out in the appropriate forum," Jones said Friday in a statement issued through her attorney.

"I have instructed my lawyers to vigorously explore a defamation lawsuit against Victor Conte."

Conte, one of four men facing criminal charges in the investigation of the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative (Balco), which he founded, says in a television interview that he supplied Jones with several banned drugs and instructed her how to use them.

The full interview is to air on Friday night on the "20-20" program, but excerpts were broadcast on Thursday.

Jones, who has steadfastly denied any wrongdoing, won three gold medals and two bronze medals at Sydney but struggled this year simply to qualify for the Athens Games.

She has never failed a drug test.

However, the US Anti-Doping Agency (Usada) fingered Balco as the source of the previously undetectable designer steriod tetrahydrogestrinone (THG), and information gathered by federal agents in the Balco case has already been used to impose sanctions on athletes for various drug infractions, even though they hadn't tested positive.

Jones' lawyers have argued that Conte cannot be believed because of his role in a scandal which has rocked athletics and cast a shadow over baseball.

MARION Jones wants to clean up her image. AP

"Mr. Conte's statements have been wildly contradictory while Marion Jones has steadfastly maintained her position throughout—she has never, ever, used performance-enhancing drugs," Jones attorney Rich Nichols said in a statement.

'Basketbrawl' causes more arguments

NEW YORK—The National Basketball Association and the players' union were at loggerheads on Friday over who has jurisdiction to hear the appeal of the record suspensions meted out in the wake of the ugly brawl at a Pacers-Pistons game last month.

Ron Artest was banned for the rest of the season and Pacers teammates Stephen Jackson and Jermaine O'Neal also received lengthy suspensions after fighting with fans.

The league's grievance arbitrator, Roger Kaplan, said he would hold a hearing next week to consider the issue of whether he has jurisdiction in the case.

But the NBA went to federal court to block Kaplan from hearing the appeals.

"We do not feel that (the arbitrator) is entitled to arbitrate this case," said Russ Granik, NBA deputy commissioner.

"We don't think he should even have said that he'd consider hearing this case," he added.

The NBA maintains that only commissioner David Stern has the power to determine suspensions in "on-court" matters. *AFP*

Bonds testimony leak angers lawyer

OAKLAND, California—A lawyer for baseball superstar Barry Bonds on Friday blamed the government for leaking sealed testimony and said his client had never knowingly taken illegal drugs.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported Thursday that Bonds told a grand jury he used two products, a "clear" and a "cream," supplied by his personal trainer Greg Anderson, who is one of four men facing steroid distribution charges after an investigation of the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative (Balco).

Balco has been fingered by US anti-doping officials as the source of the designer steroid THG.

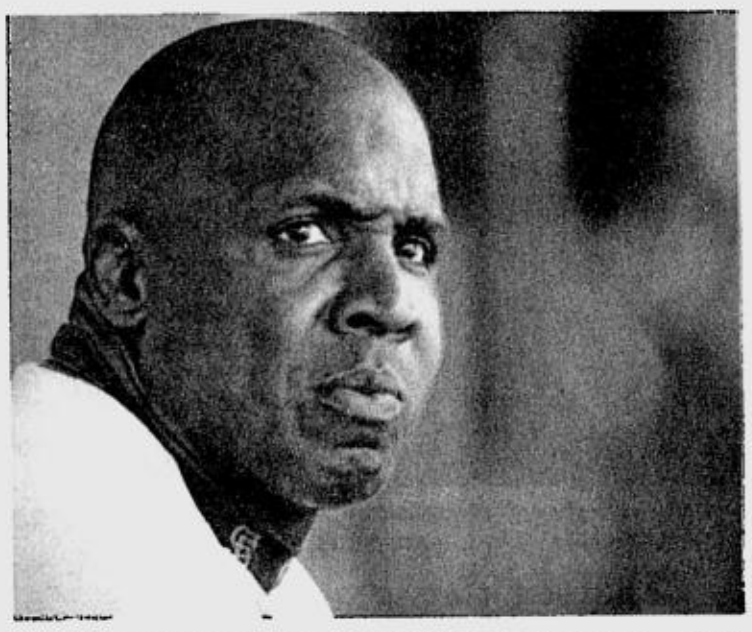
But attorney Michael Rains insisted Friday that Bonds had no knowledge that the products he got from Anderson might include steroids.

Rains said Bonds' rules regarding supplements were simple: "Nothing illegal, I won't do anything illegal."

And Rains said Bonds believed Anderson followed that dictum.

"This is Barry's best friend in the world," Rains said. "Barry trusted him and trusts him today. He trusts that he never got anything illegal from Greg Anderson.

"His testimony would be, his statement would be, if he was standing here, he did not take anything illegal. His best friend did not give him anything illegal."



BARRY Bonds' lawyer wants government to probe the leak. REUTERS

And Rains blasted federal officials for failing to let Bonds see documents gathered by investigators in the Balco case before he testified before a grand jury.

Rains and the San Francisco Giants slugger had been in contact with the US Attorney's Office before testifying last year and had been told he could review documents that contained his name or a reference to him.

That opportunity failed to materialize, and Rains said it was because prosecutors hoped to "trap" Bonds into a damning admission.

"The one and only witness of athletes to testify before the grand jury who was not allowed to look at documents pertaining to him or her, was Barry Bonds," said Rains, who also blamed federal officials for leaks of information in the case to the media.

"The reason for that is the US government didn't want to give Barry Bonds a fair shake.

"The US government thought if they could suddenly throw some documents in front of Barry Bonds for the first time in front of the grand jury, then they could get an indictment for something."

The Balco case erupted this year into a doping scandal whose shadow reached as far as the Athens Olympics.

Anderson, athletics coach Remi Korchemny and Balco executives Victor Conte and James Valente have pleaded innocent in the criminal case, which has yet to go to trial.

The implication of Bonds in the scandal could taint the star's historic Major League Baseball home run feats, including the single-season record 73 home runs he hit in 2001.

"He said he was sorry this has happened," Rains said of Bonds. "He understands the potential tarnish on the game, on his friends, and on his family." *AFP*

US pins last hopes on Bryan twins

SEVILLE, Spain—Twins Bob and Mike Bryan will have a rare opportunity to grab the spotlight on Saturday when they attempt to keep alive the United States' challenge in the Davis Cup final against Spain.

With the US trailing, 2-0, the Bryan brothers will enter Seville's Olympic Stadium knowing they have to defeat Rafael Nadal and Tommy Robredo in the doubles rubber to take the contest into a third day.

"For us this is probably the biggest competition," Mike Bryan said.

"Walking out there, I think we know this is probably the biggest moment of our lives. And we're going to give it hell."

Champions a record 31 times but seeking their first title since 1995, the Americans have been left in a precarious position following the defeats of Mardy Fish and Andy Roddick on the slow red clay on Friday.

The Bryans have had an excellent career that includes winning the 2003 French Open and the Masters Cup over the past two seasons.

Despite their wholesome all-American good looks, the brothers often have to contest their matches in front of half-empty stands.

Hence their match on Saturday in front of 27,000 fans will test their skills to survive a hostile crowd in an almost uniquely high-profile match.

The Spanish squad is well aware that the brothers' hunger for victory is backed by their tennis.

"I know that the point in the doubles will be the most difficult one (of the final)," said Juan Avendano, part of Spain's three-man coaching team.

The brothers have won all three of their Davis Cup matches this year without dropping a set, while Robredo and Nadal have claimed only one victory.

Right-handed Mike and left-handed Bob, born two minutes apart, have the advantage of years of experience as a team. *Reuters*

Nadal helps Spain grab 2-0 Davis lead

SEVILLE, Spain—Teenage rookie Rafael Nadal blunted the world's fastest serve on Friday to stun Andy Roddick and give Spain a 2-0 lead over the United States in the Davis Cup final.

The 18-year-old, playing his first year of Davis Cup, whipped a record tennis crowd of 27,200 to a frenzy as he rocked the world No. 2, 6-7, 6-2, 7-6, 6-2.

"This is so important for me because it has been a long time since I played at this level," he said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Ranked 51st in the world, Nadal had been preferred to former world No. 1 Juan Carlos Ferrero for this match in a controversial move by coach Jordi Arrese on Thursday.

His whole-hearted performance vindicated Arrese's decision.

"Everything went so well, just great," the player smiled as he left the clay court.

Nadal absorbed everything a serve-volleying Roddick threw at him, pummeling returns and blasting groundstrokes all round Seville's Olympic Stadium court to clinch a fantastic victory in three hours 38 minutes.

The burly left-hander fell to the ground in relief after forcing Roddick into an error on his second match point.

Nadal's fellow Mallorcan and practice partner Carlos Moya had earlier fired Spain into a 1-0 lead which means the Bryan twins, Mike and Bob, must now beat Nadal and Tommy Robredo on Saturday to prevent Spain winning their second Davis Cup.

Former world No. 1 Moya bamboozled Mardy Fish, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3, for the first point.

"I turned up for the most important date of my life in front of so many people so at the start I was a little nervous," Moya smiled.

"But I played safely, within myself, not taking too many risks. I knew he is a player who, if things are going well for him, can be very strong."

Olympic silver medalist Fish had won two of his three previous matches against Moya but those victories came on hard courts.

On Seville's slow, red, power-blunting clay and against a backdrop of red and yellow flags and banners, Moya tied his opponent up in knots.

Running him from side to side, the Spaniard put on a claycourt masterclass.

Punching winners into the corners off both sides, Moya clinched the opening set on his first set point after 40 minutes of play.

The 1998 French Open champion blasted through Fish's defenses in the second set and the third proved little more than a formality.

"I tried everything," Fish said. "I tried serving and volleying. You know, I tried coming in on a lot of balls. I tried to stay back a lot . . . but he had the answers." *Reuters*

SPAIN'S Rafael Nadal celebrates winning a third set tie-break in his match against Andy Roddick of the US. Spain now has a commanding 2-0 edge going into the doubles competition. REUTERS.

Roddick: 'I just ran into a guy today that was too good'

ANDY Roddick's defeat left US in a bind. AP

SEVILLE, Spain—A baying, frenzied Spanish tennis crowd and Rafael Nadal combined to bring world No. 2 Andy Roddick to his knees on Friday at the Davis Cup final.

It is not an experience he is likely to forget.

"It was crazy. You know, it was unlike anything I've experienced before," the shell-shocked American said after his defeat at the hands of the 18-year-old.

"Obviously, emotionally I'm pretty down—I wanted to get one for the team."

Roddick's serve—the world's fastest—and his ferocious forehand were both blunted by the Mallorcan teenager as Spain took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five rubber match.

"I just ran into a guy today that was too good," the American said. "I couldn't have tried any harder. You know, I couldn't have . . . I gave it everything I had. It just wasn't enough on the day."

Roddick threw everything at his young opponent but Nadal absorbed it all.

"I had to do something to try to win points," said Roddick. "I felt like I stuck to the game plan and I volleyed pretty well today. I just ran into someone who played too well."

"Every once in a while people come along and they're big match players.

"This is the third time this year he's stepped up in singles and played well. I think you either have it or you don't, regardless of age."

Roddick predicts a bright future for the left-handed Nadal.

"I think he could become possibly one of the best clay courters in the world," he said.

Twins Bob and Mike Bryan must now beat Nadal and Tommy Robredo to keep alive American hopes of winning a first Davis Cup since 1995.

Despite their predicament, US captain Patrick McEnroe heaped praise on Roddick for his efforts.

"I'm extremely proud of the way Andy played today, the way he competed, which he always does," he said.

"But more importantly, the tactics that he used and the improvement that he showed in playing that style.

"So to me that bodes very, very well for him, and therefore for us, not just for us this weekend, but for the future. *Reuters*

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Fans get a close-up of Pacquiao foe

By Salven L. Lagumbay

FIGHT fans get a full view of Fahsan 3K Battery, Manny Pacquiao's adversary in Taguig on Dec. 11, who will be featured in a Viva Sports pre-fight special on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. over RPN 9.

Sponsored by Beer na Beer and aired on the top-rating weekly boxing show 'The Main Event' the Pacquiao-Fahsan pre-fight special of "Yanig sa Taguig" will also showcase Fahsan in action against Filipino Joebar Damosmog whom he knocked out in the sixth round.

The veteran Damosmog was among the more than 20 Filipino fighters Fahsan had beaten, most of them by knockout.

The special will also include exclusive footages of Fahsan's training as well as Pacquiao's preparation at the Almendras Gym in Davao City including his early morning roadwork, gym workouts with trainer Freddie Roach, sparring sessions and interviews with Roach.

It also includes some lighthearted moments where Pacquiao interviews sparring partner and Philippine lightweight champion Fernando Montilla, who is himself preparing for a showdown with Elorde fighter Rey Almonicar on Dec. 11.

Meanwhile, reigning RP superfeatherweight king Bobby Pacquiao was forced to pull out of his Dec. 11 defense against Cebu-based Dexter "Dinamita" Delada following a hand injury suffered while training in Davao City.

Manny Pacquiao's younger brother injured his left hand while hitting the heavy bag two weeks ago, but the decision to withdraw from the fight came only this week after his camp officially sent a medical certificate to the Games and Amusements Board.

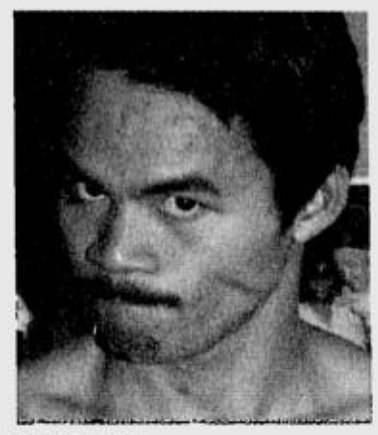
The younger Pacquiao would have made his sixth titular defense against the lanky, power-punching Delada.

Organizers were quick to find a replacement for the injured Pacquiao, as Mindanao brawler Arnel Porras, a sparmate for the Ring Magazine featherweight king, was picked to pinch-hit for the RP champ.

Delada versus Porras will be fought in 10 rounds, with the winner getting an outright chance to challenge Pacquiao.

As this developed, Montilla's defense against top-rated Rey Almonicar will be the chief support to the Pacquiao-3K Battery mainer.

Montilla is currently training with Pacquiao in Davao Almendras Gym, while Almonicar is working out with Delada at the Elorde Gym in Parañaque.



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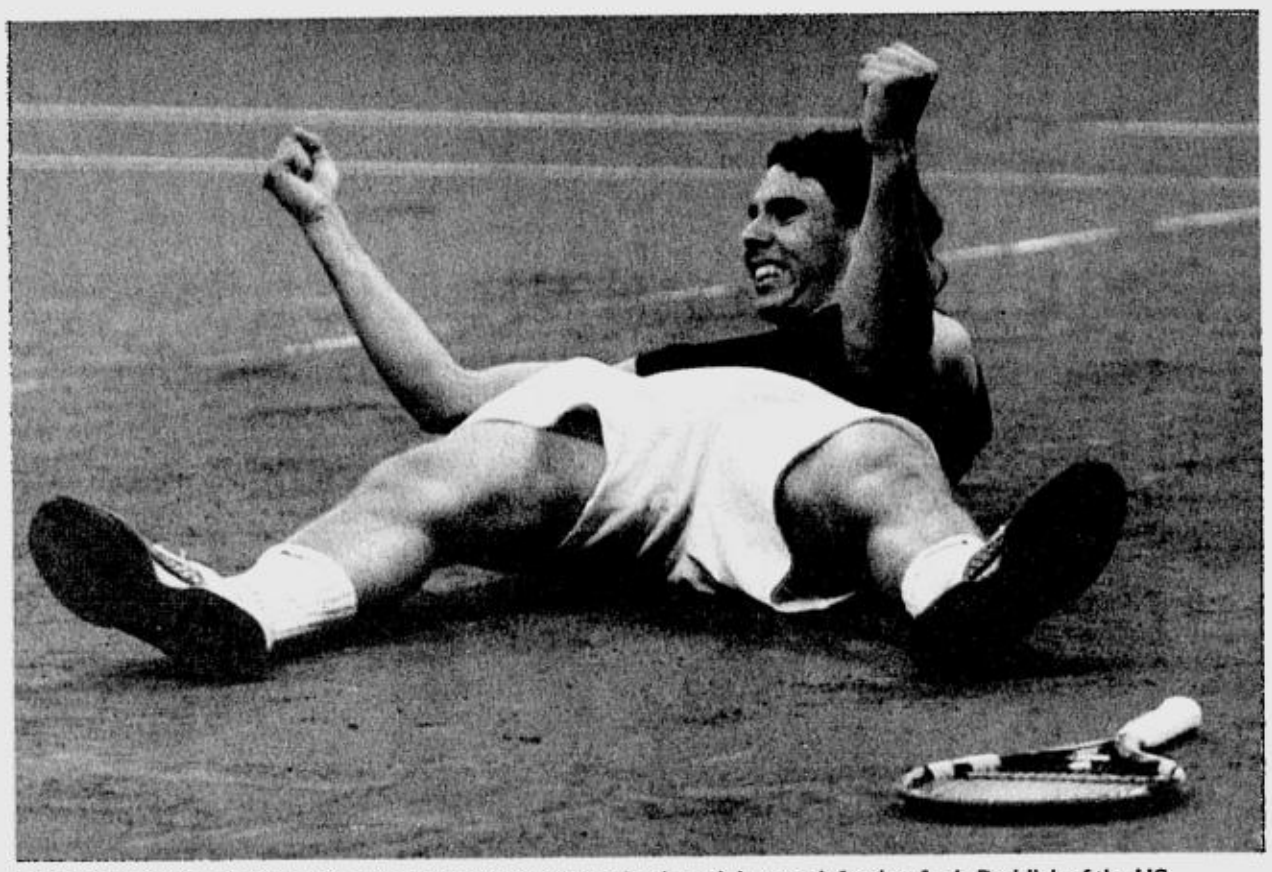


FALLEN VICTOR: Spain's Rafael Nadal falls to the ground as he celebrates defeating Andy Roddick of the US during the Davis Cup final at Seville's Olympic Stadium Dec. 3. *See story on page 29.* REUTERS

Ilocos, Lhuillier arrange URBL titular showdown

CEBU CITY—Harbour City-Pampanga played the spoiler's role and M. Lhuillier-Cebu City and the Ilocos Sur Snipers went on to arrange yesterday a showdown for the first ever United Regional Basketball League (URBL) championship at the New Cebu City Coliseum.

Winless in their first five semifinal outings, Harbour City upset the Quezon Coco Huskers, 91-86, to dash the title hopes of their victims in this tournament sponsored by Lactovitale and Adidas in cooperation with URBL partner hotels Castle Peak, Holiday Plaza and Mango Park.

The Jewelers went on to down the Snipers, 74-68, to tie Ilocos for top spot with four wins against two losses and seal their title duel.

Quezon finished third at 3-3 with Pampanga last a 1-5.

Game One of the best-of-five championship series is tentatively set on Friday, Dec. 10, at 6 p.m. at the Santo Domingo People's Center.

Harbour Centre-Pampanga and the Quezon Huskers will collide at 4 p.m. in a sudden-death knockout match for third place.

Bong Marata paced M. Lhuillier with 16 while James Laygo and Leo Bat-og added 11 each. Jerome Barbosa starred for Ilocos with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

The Huskers built their biggest lead of the game at 63-48 before Billy Bansil exploded together with Alex Bognot and Mark Nannginga to move Harbour Centre within 62-63 at the end of the third quarter.

With momentum on its side, Harbour Centre turned to veteran center Long David who drilled in a jumper to give Pampanga the lead for good, 72-71, with 6:41 still remaining.

Bansil finished with a game-high 22 points, followed by David with 16.

Jomar Tierra paced the Huskers with 14 while Niño Marquez knocked in 13.

The scores:

First game

HARBOUR CENTRE 91—Bansil 22, David 16, Bognot 12, Liangco 12, Santos 10, A Garcia 9, Nanninga 5, Dizon 3, Yambao 2, Magpayo 0.

QUEZON 86—Tierra 14, Marquez 13, L Rodriguez 12, Booker 11, Echavez 10, A Rodriguez 9, Guerrero 8, Kong 7, Taguines 2, Ferrer 0, Catalan 0.

Quarters: 16-21, 37-44, 62-63, 91-86.

Second game

M. LHUILLIER 74—Marata 16, Bat-og 11, Laygo 11, Dacia 10, L Garcia 7, de Guzman 7, Aying 6, Enriquez 4, Cañonso 2, Smith 0, Rubi 0, Ocañada 0, Lumantas 0.

ILOCOS SUR 68—Barbosa 20, Sanders 13, Yu 12, Santa Cruz 6, Cardel 5, D Mendoza 5, Rauschmayer 4, Manigo 2, Hardin 1, Butel 0.

Quarters: 19-9, 44-29, 64-47, 74-68.

Baguio golfers dominate play at their home turfs

BAGUIO CITY—The host players exploited their familiarity with the Camp John Hay and the Baguio Country Club courses to garner most of the individual titles in the first-ever seniors tournament of the 55th Fil-Am Invitational tournament here Friday.

Fred Puckett of the CJH Team scored 83 points in three rounds to win the crown in the championship flight of the Fil Division. Florene de los Santos placed second while CJH captain Ben Borja placed third.

In the Championship Am Division, another Baguio boy, Federico Eslao of Syndicate Seniors, emerged top scorer with 90 points while Agoes Soelewah of Aloha Golf Tema of Hawaii was second with 84. Sagat Giron placed third with 79 points.

The Manila Southwoods Seniors topped the Am division with all five players making it to the Top 11.

The individual and team champions were feted Friday night at the CAP-John Hay Cultural Center after the cancellation of the fourth round because of heavy rains and strong winds brought by Typhoon Yoyong.

In the Fil Class A, Baguio Councilor Federico Mandapat Jr. of CJH scored 92 points, the highest among the 125 seniors. Teammate Nelson Eslao placed second with 87 while Danilo Pizzaro of Riviera-Mizuno placed third.

Outgoing University of Baguio president Herr Bautista of BCC scored 69 points as top player in the Am Division, Herbert Hayes and Antonio Versoza of CJH placed second and third, respectively.

In Class B, Robert Paterson of CJH won the individual crown in the Fil Division with 76 points, followed by Pastor Zamesa of Riviera-Mizuno and Anthony Fernandez of Club Intramuros Seniors.

In the Am Division, Fred Santos of the Philippine Seniors Founders was the first non-Baguio winner after scoring 70 points.

Second was Levi Roque of the Rural bankers Association of the Philippines Team while third was Vads Navarette of BCC.

James Alviar and Louie Barron of the Pines Golf Club of California, a team composed of Baguio *balikbayans*, scored 75 and 70 points, respectively, to rule the Fil Class C scoring contest. Third was Romulo Garcia of Intramuros.

Bebot Rivera of Philippine Seniors Founders scored 71 points to pace the Am Division. Orly Basuil of Green Water Meadows was second with 47. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cebu stables sending men to Roach clinic

By Salven L. Lagumbay

CEBU CITY—Practically all of Cebu's major boxing gyms will be aptly represented when renowned boxing trainer Freddie Roach holds his once-in-a-lifetime boxing clinic on Dec. 8 and 9 at the ABAP Gym in Manila.

The corrective clinic is organized by lawyer-sportsman Rudy Salud and sponsored by the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Roach, trainer of Manny Pacquiao, Mike Tyson, and James Toney among others, has agreed to help Philippine boxing improve its stock by sharing his expertise and technical know-how with local trainers, who until today continue to wallow in techniques dating back to the bare-knuckle days.

Cebu boxing patron Tony Aldeguer of the ALA Boxing Gym here, together with his chief trainer Edito "Ala" Villamor, are among the earliest to have signified their intention to join the two-day clinic. Aldeguer, together with WBC founding secretary-general Rudy Salud, manages the career of superfly phenom Z "The Dream" Gorres.

Promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, the acknowledged kingmaker from Cebu, is also reportedly sending three of his trainers to join the event, which happens just days prior to Pacquiao's 12-round tiff with Thai Fahsan 3K Battery.

Stonewall Boxing Club, which promotes OPBF kingpin Rodel Mayol, is also sending trainer Carl Peñalosa Jr. together with Mayol to give the latter a glimpse of Roach's teaching style.

Although Peñalosa is already quite familiar with Roach's style during the Gerry Peñalosa days at the Wild Card Gym, Peñalosa says he wants "to renew ties with Roach because he is a very good man."

Roach clinic will start at 8 a.m., with lectures to be held on Dec. 8 and demonstrations and problem-solving on Dec. 9.

UAAP tankers leave today for Asean University Games

THE FINEST swimmers of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) led by Athens Olympian Timmy Chua leave for Surabaya, Indonesia, today for the 12th Asean University Games.

Besides Chua of UP, the UAAP team headed by Ateneo athletics director Jose Capistrano Jr. is also composed of Raphael Evan Grabador, Jeffrey James Laguitao and Luica Gaudes Dacanay of UP, Benjamin Uy of De La Salle, Regina Fatima Amago of UST and Sherlynne Nicole Santiago of Ateneo.

The ASEAN University Games is staged once every two years on a rotating basis among member nations Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei and the Philippines. The Philippines hosted the event in 2002.

The games' 12th edition starts today with the competition lasting up to Dec. 12.

Also with Team UAAP-Philippines are head coach Bernardo Cavida of UP and physiotherapist Moriel Baligad.

Meanwhile, action in the UAAP's Season 67 resumed yesterday with the juniors volleyball competition at the UE Gym 5 in Manila and the lawn tennis hostilities today at the Rizal Racquet Club in Pasig City.

Simple opening ceremonies at 11 a.m. will open the tennis event hosted by defending champion De La Salle. Today's men's pairings pit UST against UE and Ateneo against UP.

It will be La Salle, the reigning titlist, against archrival Ateneo and UP against UST in women's play.

Orchard posts near sweep

HOST entries from the Orchard Golf and Country Club scored a near sweep of the awards disputed as they went home with four of the five first place trophies in the recent Senior Care Fellowship Golf Classic.

Orchard clinched the team championship on top of victories in three of the four individual categories that were contested by a big field which participated in the 18-hole tourney played at the challenging Palmer course of the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Orchard finished ahead of the teams from Eagle Ridge and Manila Southwoods in the event organized by the Senior Care Program of the Federation of Golf Club Phils. Inc.

Tournament and raffle prizes were provided by Smart Communications, lawyer Gilberto Duavit, P&O Ports Asia Operating Headquarters, Information Professionals Inc., Unilab, Century Park Hotel, Prettylooks, Milestone Hotel, Pearl Manila Hotel, Citibank NA, Johnnie Walker, Makati Golf and Federation member clubs.

Winning individual trophies for Orchard were Ted Neri in the Classic Division for 55- to 59-year-olds, William Lim in the Elite category (60-64) and Zol de Guzman in the Statesman bracket (65-69).

Capt. Ben Narciso of Alabang prevented a sweep when he ruled the Vintage Division for 70 and above. Bob Milan topped the guest division. Neri won over Danilo Olanoza of Eagle Ridge and Peping Nepomuceno of Riviera.

Southwoods hosts Young Guns

MANILA Southwoods Golf and Country Club will play host for the second straight year to the Young Guns 2004 junior golf championships, a tournament featuring the age bracket which has produced most of the country's international champions the past decade.

Slated on Dec. 20-22, the Young Guns tourney will see players in the 12 years and below bracket of the jungolf ranks tackling the lightning-fast greens and the bunker-laden fairways and greens of the Legends course of Manila Southwoods.

Southwoods, the home course of LPGA champion Jenny Rosales and recent Vietnam Open champ Angelo Que, who are both products of the jungolf movement, has accommodated the tourney amid the busy golf season in support of the organizers' pursuit for a steady turnover of talents.

"We feel grateful to the support being given us by Southwoods and Fil-Estate management.," said Luigi Tabuena, head of the organizing committee.

About 120 kids from Korea, Switzerland, Japan, United States and Singapore will make up the field in the 54-hole competition.

Players may fax registration forms to 809-8074 or mail to Share Exchange office at the 11th floor of FGU Bldg., Madrigal Business Park, Muntinlupa City. Inquiries can also be made at tels. 8505870-71.

LASCUÑA

Canlubang hosts ITT pro-am; crack field assured

CANLUBANG'S North and South courses, two of the toughest tests in golf, will host the first Ideal Travel and Tours Invitational Pro-Am that has been assured of a crack professional field with the inclusion of Carito Villaroman and Antonio Lascuña.

Former Philippine Open champions Cassius Casas and Robert Pactolerin are also entered in the lean but mean field, making it a wide-open chase for the pro title of the event set Dec. 13 and 14 and bankrolled by ITT, a company that specializes in seacraft tours in Subic Bay.

Lascuña, the reigning The Country Club Invitational champ, and Villaroman, a regular in the Asian circuit, are among the favorites in the 36-hole event together with Casas, also the inaugural Super Tour winner, and 1991 RP Masters winner Pactolerin.

Caloy Nival, Rey Alit, Felix Fernando and Mario Siodina make it a four-cornered fight for the senior title, which, like the men's division, stakes cash prizes and elegantly crafted trophies to the winner.

World Amateur veterans Artemio Murakami, Michael Bibat and Juvic Pagunsan have also been invited and will play against a crack Japanese field, the winner in the division will get to enjoy a luxury cruise courtesy of the sponsoring ITT.

A three-hour, island-hopping journey aboard a sleek, top-of-the-line Yamaha 41-foot yacht to swim, snorkel and fish in the open sea form part of the luxury cruise package for the amateur champion and his guests.

The Yamaha yacht is just one of Ideal Travel's seacraft available for rent together with a Sea Ray and Boston Whaler speedboats for adventurers and 26-foot fishing vessels with cabin and toilet.

AFTER THE TYPHOONS: A boy showboats using a basketball ring as a jumpboard as floodwaters begin to subside in Barangay Canyugan, Calumpit, Bulacan. Flood waters here reached as high as seven feet the day before. RAFFY LERMA

Probe not only BAP, other NSAs, too–GTK

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHY single out basketball?

This was the reaction of Go Teng Kok yesterday as he came to the defense of the beleaguered Basketball Association of the Philippines in his new role as special adviser of the most popular national sports association in the land.

The BAP is under fire for the humiliating stint by the Philippine College of Criminology team as the country's representative in the recent Fiba-Stankovic Cup in Taipei, where it finished dead last.

As a result, Rep. Monico Puentevella, also the incoming Philippine Olympic Committee first vice president and the weightlifting chief, announced he would seek a Congressional inquiry into the debacle.

Rather than justify the participation of PCCr, Go asked the new POC leadership to review the membership of several national

PUENTEVELLA

GO TENG KOK

sports associations which haven't been performing well in the international scene the past few years.

Go, the longtime athletics president who was recently elected head of chess, particularly asked Puentevella to help put into motion a POC guideline on NSAs which usually come home empty-handed after government-funded international stints.

"I laud the congressman's call for an investigation," said Go. "But it should not stop with basketball.

He might as well help convince the new POC officers to review the performances of the NSAs which have not been doing well for years but continue to spend taxpayers' money.

"Why single out basketball? We should also check on squash, sailing and triathlon for example," added

Go. "They get money from the government (Philippine Sports Commission) and enjoy full membership in the POC but they don't have any gold medal to show."

He added that the POC is the best agency to police the NSAs ranks so as to avoid allegations of government intervention among the NSAs which are supposedly private and autonomous.

"Basketball is very popular that's why it attracts attention, but what about these NSAs which also give the nation embarrassment for performing badly abroad?" added Go.

The outgoing and the incoming POC executive boards are set to meet on Dec. 8 for a formal turnover. The new set of officers, led by president-elect Peping Cojuangco, will begin their term on Jan. 1.

SPORTSWATCH

RP A batters competing in China

THE PHILIPPINE "A" baseball squad will spend their Christmas in China. Hector Navasero, Philippine Amateur Baseball Association president confirmed the participation of the RP team (11-12 years old) in the BFA "A" Baseball Championship to be held in Guangzhou, China, on Dec. 21-27. The team is composed of players from Iliam, Southridge, Los Baños and Philab. They are Amber Louise Jays Plaza, Mark Anthony Elic, Nelson Deo Salazar, PJ Prondoza, Boycel Badrina, Mark Kevin Badrina, Franzie Avila, Nathaneal Andrew Alquiros, Miguel Carlos Macaraeg, Ben Antonio Lacsamana, Adriane Ros Bernardo, Karl Emmanuel Peralta, Hector Pierre Navasero, Gerard Alvin Mitra and Manuel Luis Navasero. The delegation also includes team manager Jose "Pepe" Gaston and coaches Catalino Leron III and Roselino Bernardo.

Sarmiento tops URCC photo contest

ERNIE Sarmiento, chief photographer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, won the Universal Reality Combat Championship V Beyond Fear photo contest. He won P5,000 for his winning photograph, which came out in the INQUIRER on Oct. 25. Coming in second was Manila Times' Ruy Martinez whose entry made it to the front page of his paper also last Oct. 25. He received P3,000. The winners were announced during the recent San Mig Strong Ice URCC Champions Party at Rack's El Pueblo. The champions honored were Jeanyce Baga of DEFTAC Dumaguete, Luisito Sangalang of Sari An, Mark "The Machine" Sanglao of Wushu, Alan Marcus Co of DEFTAC Yaw-Yan and Edgar Costillos of Bokaldo.

Yu, Guingona lead Infinity golf winners

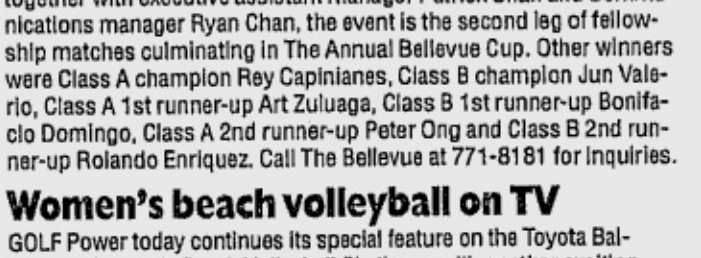
LOW net champion Danny Yu and low gross champion Jo Guingona led the team of winners at the recent Bellevue Manila-Smart Infinity Golf Fellowship. More than 50 golfers vied for trophies and prizes in the friendly match organized by The Bellevue Hotel in thanksgiving to its friends and supporters, including golfers from Alabang's business community. Spearheaded by The Bellevue GM Cyndy Tan-Jarabata, together with executive assistant manager Patrick Chan and Communications manager Ryan Chan, the event is the second leg of fellowship matches culminating in The Annual Bellevue Cup. Other winners were Class A champion Rey Capinianes, Class B champion Jun Valerio, Class A 1st runner-up Art Zuluaga, Class B 1st runner-up Bonifacio Domingo, Class A 2nd runner-up Peter Ong and Class B 2nd runner-up Rolando Enriquez. Call The Bellevue at 771-8181 for inquiries.

Women's beach volleyball on TV

GOLF Power today continues its special feature on the Toyota Balintawak Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge with another exciting elimination match between Philippine Navy and Philippine Army in the open division. The match was played recently at the beach volleyball court of the Cantada Sports Center in Taguig. Golf Power is aired every Sunday at 3 p.m. on RPN 9 and is followed by the popular boxing show "Samsung's Fistorama" at 4 p.m. Fistorama is supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, Mapecon and PCSO.

UA-P vs RTU spikers in MNCAA finals

UNIVERSITY of the Assumption-Pampanga and Rizal Technological University arranged a titular showdown for the MNCAA volleyball championship after beating their respective semifinal opponents yesterday at the RTU gym. UA-Pampanga won by default over Emilio Aguinaldo College-Cavite while RTU drubbed University of Asia & the Pacific, 25-21, 25-16, 26-24, to reach the Dec. 11 winner-take-all finals of the Snickers-chocolate sponsored league. UA-Pampanga also entered the championship of junior basketball, beating Angelicum, 74-68. It will face elimination topnotcher Lourdes-Quezon City.



CEREMONIAL FLAG OFF: Ivan Isada and Art Guevarra during the ceremonial flag off of the Speedzone Rally Pilipinas held Saturday at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone in Zambales.

'Walis tambo'

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BAGUIO has not only undergone a nose lift—a terrible one, that is. Its face, alas, has been deformed. The cosmetics surgery proved to be a dud. If this were a case of a Hollywood make-me-pretty job, it'd amount to a stickup.

Suits from all over could end the career of the make-up artist.

The sheriff, if this were an old Western town, would become instant fodder to the lynch mob.

Now, tell me, who is Baguio's city engineer?

He could be the modern-day sheriff who could die with his boots on.

I won't hazard a guess why the city has been allowed to deteriorate. I only wonder why city officials have done nothing to preserve the charm and beauty of this once lofty summer vacation place.

How many love-struck couples of ages ago used the city as their love nest? Wasn't it only a while back that it has gotten the tag "Honeymoon Haven"?

As a kid barely in my teens, it was in Baguio where I saw the film "Dr. No." Boy, was I thrilled to the bones. Sean Connery was then the world's darling. Up until Pierce Brosnan came along, there was no James Bond better than Sean Connery.

Oh, the Baguio of my youth, what has become of you? The old, rag doll has suddenly become more lovable, huggable, than you.

The last 10 years or so, yuck! It sucks. The city's deterioration was so fast it's become like a person afflicted with terminal cancer: Anytime now, it's going to be a bitter goodbye.

The last five years alone, we saw nothing but steel and concrete protruding in wild abandon like sore thumbs sticking up the city skyline.

In a leisurely ride at Session Road this week, Commodore Pizarro, the proud PMAer, was nearly in tears as he recalled his halcyon days in Baguio.

When the Commodore couldn't find Star Café on Session Road, he said: "My Baguio is gone."

You think Louie Sison was kidding when he said that the last remaining remnants of Baguio's greatness are the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay?

No.

"I was six years old when I hit my first tee shot at the Baguio Country Club," said Louie, whose BCC team won a Seniors divisional title in the ongoing 55th Fil-Am Invitational at both BCC and Camp John Hay. "That was in 1949. Oh, how beautiful was the city back in the fifties, sixties. Today, I strongly feel only the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay make Baguio worth visiting."

How about Burnham Park?

Whoa! You rarely see lovebirds, holding hands, strolling there nowadays. What you see now is a clump of what Cole Porter sang, "Anything Goes." It's graffiti in another sense: Structures of all shapes and sizes have buried the once serene landscape. The park's tranquil lake has completely lost its mystique.

Even the Mansion House has no more appeal whatsoever. Its wrought fences are rusting, its massive gate not as handsome as it used to be.

The Mine's View Park now has a view that's not too pleasing to the eye anymore.

What riles me the most, though, is that, at the Baguio Cathedral, they now charge parking fees! Boy, the Cathedral where I was baptized has come a long way, indeed.

In short, harsh as it may seem, Baguio has fallen prey to crass commercialism that the only thing now worth treasuring every time you go up there is the raisin bread at the Baguio Country Club. If you include the *walis tambo*, fine.

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Rookies galore in 2-day Tour Pilipinas qualifying

RHYAN Tanguilig will stake his title against hungry, eager rookies.

THE ROSTER swelled close to 300—and more than a third are rookies—for the two-day qualifying for the 2005 Tour Pilipinas set Tuesday and Wednesday in Batangas.

This elated no end Tour Pilipinas Inc. chairman Bert Lina, also president of PhilCycling, the national federation for the sport, who will start imposing to the hilt Union Cycliste Internationale regulations in the annual Tour beginning in 2005.

Lina said the fact that more than a third are rookies or those who have never raced in the Tour before underscores the goal of the Tour of going deep into the grassroots.

Not even the aftermath of typhoons Winnie and Yoyong could stop aspirants from the provinces, particularly in cycling cradles like Nueva Ecija and Cagayan Valley, from coming to Batangas for the races to be supervised by the Philippine National Cycling Association.

The qualifying consists of a 194.6-km massed start from Lian via Lemery and Payapa to Alfonso on Tuesday (Dec. 7) and a 39.6-km individual time trial from Balayan on Wednesday (Dec. 8).

All riders will be housed at the Lian Central School and at the Lian Covered Courts. Lian Mayor Osita Vergara, municipal coordinator Mar de la Cruz and parish priest Fr. Mandy Panganiban are also supporting the two-day races.

Seventy-six riders will be picked out of the qualifying for the 2005 Tour. They will join seeded riders Rhyan Tanguilig (defending champion), 2004 third-placer Albert Primero, Rookie of the Year Baler Ravina and Sprint King Enrique Domingo in the 2005 roster.

Ten teams of eight riders each will race in 2005 which will be ran over 10 stages.

Since its inception, Lina has always stressed the need for cycling to dig into the grassroots in the hopes of tapping talents who can be used for international competitions.

Lina revived the Tour in 2002 to inject life back into the sport, which was gasping due to a lack of financial support.

So powers Tagaytay A to victory

TAGAYTAY CITY—Wesley So provided the lone victory as top seed Tagaytay City A edged second seed Mandaluyong City, 2.5-1.5, and 5th seed Maynila A, 3.5-0.5, to enter the quarter-final round set today at the Tagaytay City Sports Center here.

GM Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr., IM Richard Bitoon,and Jerome Balico settled for a truce with Mandaluyong's IM Idelfonso Datu, NM Rolando Nolte and Rodolfo Panopio Jr., on board 1, 2 and 3, respectively, in the fifth round on Friday.

However, Merben Roque missed the winning lines allowing 11-year-old So to score Tagaytay City A's clincher.

So registered another important win for Tagaytay City A by beating Maynilas' Truman Hernaez in yesterday's sixth and penultimate round of the seven-round elimination format.

Tagaytay City A now has 5.0 points, the same output of 5th seed Maynila B anchored by reigning Asian 3.2a zonal champion GM candidate Ronald Dableo and IM-candidate Darwin Laylo, who forced a 2-2 draw with sister team Maynila A in the fifth round and edged Muntinlupa City (Alabang) of GM Nelson Mariano II and FIDE Master Oliver Dimakiling, 2.5-1.5, in the sixth round.

At third place is 3rd seed Dasmariñas (Cavite) with 4.5 points, following a 2.5-1,5 victory over Mandaluyong City. *Marlon Bernardino*

Ramos, Reynante dispute criterium crown

TEAM TCL's Merculio Ramos and Team Pagcor's Lloyd Reynante fight it out for supremacy in closed-circuit racing when the third and final leg of the Cycling Search Invitational Criterium Race presented by Pagcor is held today in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

With Ramos and Reynante tied with 23 points after two legs of the circuit, a down-the-wire battle for top honors is expected in the deciding 48-km, 15-lap event around the provincial capitol of the city considered as the only surviving colonial town in the country.

Victor Espiritu, a teammate of Ramos and running third in the overall standings with 18 points, is expected to aid Ramos in pursuit of the team crown.

Team TCL shows the way with 61 points with Team Pagcor just five points behind with 56, making the fight for team honors and the top P15,000 purse as hotly contested as the individual competition, which stakes P5,000 to the winner.

The race will be aired live on dzSR 918 starting at 10 a.m.

Like Ramos, the 26-year-old Reynante, son of former two-time Marlboro champion Maui Reynante, will also be counting on teammate Bernard Luzon, tied with Tomas Martinez for fourth in the individual race with 13 points, while Albert Primero is in sixth with 12 points.

Focus will also be on the elite category, with Team Excellent's Joel Balucos, who leads with 26 points.

The event, organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp. and backed by the cities of Manila, Tarlac and Vigan City, Rudy Project, Tarlac Electric Co., Partas Transport, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philpost, UCPB Gen., Masco, WOW Phils., TCL, Philcycling and Air 21, is put up to discover young and aspiring talents both in the men's and women's division.

In fact, the all-women David's Salon team, which includes national team mainstays Marita Lucas and Bing Alto, and former national triathlon team members Ani de Leon and Kaye Lopez together with Mona Valdez, is competing in the event, vowing a strong finishing kick in Vigan.

ENTERTAINMENT

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'I'm the new Imelda Marcos'

Catherine Zeta-Jones reveals her love for shoes, and describes a 'typical' working day when she kisses Brad Pitt

By Ruben V. Nepales
LA Correspondent

PALM SPRINGS, California—"I'm the new Imelda Marcos."

Distracted by both the beauty of Catherine Zeta-Jones and the view behind her—a golf course surrounded by multimillion dollar homes and rocky mountains, your hard-working correspondent is jolted back to the press con in progress upon hearing "Imelda Marcos."

Whoa, did Catherine just mention the former Philippine First Lady? And how did the original Imeldific figure in this interview being held in the desert oasis of the rich and famous?

Let's backtrack. A lady journalist asks Catherine if she seeks therapy in shopping, and for which item—clothes, shoes or bags?

"Shoes," the actress readily answers in that familiar sultry voice. We're in the clubhouse of a private golf course where Catherine's husband, actor Michael Douglas, is out playing with our host, "Ocean's Twelve" producer Jerry Weintraub. "I have no idea how many times I'm going to walk to be able to use all the shoes that I have," she says, laughing. "I mean, it's insane. I think I'm a little borderline obsessive shoe freak. I'm the new Imelda Marcos."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Just because...

It's "unbelievable," she says. "Sometimes I buy shoes just because they're so beautiful. I never wear them but they're beautiful pieces of art." She laughs again. "Try explaining that to my husband. He just does not get it. He goes, 'But you never wear them.' I could break my neck if I wore them. Some of them are like this ..." With her fingers, she demonstrates how high the heels are.

On this glorious fall noon, she's wearing black pumps with soles in dramatic red ("Louis Vuitton," she later tells me as we pose for pictures) to go with a black blouse and skirt. Her hips swing seductively when she walks. The woman certainly knows how to enchant. Her amber eyes blaze with allure. Everything about her—long brunette hair, lips—is sensual. In short, she is right up there with Charlize Theron, Angelina Jolie and Ashley Judd as the most beautiful Hollywood actresses we've met.

Even her "Ocean's Twelve" co-stars, George Clooney and Matt Damon, can't hide their awareness of Catherine's charm. George, whom we interviewed earlier, asked, "Has Catherine been in here yet?" And later, when Matt was told that Catherine was a tough act to follow, he said, "I

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"I CERTAINLY know the value of money," she says.

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Netopia - Abanao Square, SM Baguio, Pilitel Building Session Road
Seattle's Best Coffee - SM Baguio
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Boracay
Nami Beach Resort
Waling-Waling Beach Resort
Makati
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True Value - Powerplant Mall Rockwell Center
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California Pizza Kitchen - Shangri-La Mall
Cheesecake Etc. - Level 4 Building A SM Megamall
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Smart Buy - 2nd Level EDSA Central Pavilion
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'I'm the new Imelda Marcos'

From page A33

know. I got to follow Catherine. It's terrible."

Can't have enough

With our, er, journalistic reflexes springing back to life at the mention of "Imelda Marcos," we tell Catherine that she has just given us a very good headline since we come from the Philippines. So we ride the shoe issue and ask if she, like Imelda, believes that one could never have enough shoes.

"You can't," she replies with a smile. "Come on. Because there are certain shoes that must go with certain things on certain days. It's like what my husband says, when I go on vacation: there are the clothes and there are the bags, and shoes that are as equally important as the clothes. I just love them. I have antique shoes and everything. I love them. I really do love them. I was wondering what ones I got on today."

In the same breath, she adds, laughing yet again: "Gosh, I've got to clear out my cupboards. My husband has told me that I am not allowed to buy anything more. Not another pair of shoes. Not one more bag. Not one more belt."

And so will you not buy anything more? she is asked. "Of course I will," she says, her eyes lighting up with a naughty spark. "I can't wait to do some shopping. I've been in Mexico working (on the sequel to 'The Mask of Zorro'). I need some retail therapy. I need to get out there—I love going to the stores. I like touching them, you know." Her voice goes lower, as if to emphasize the lusty appeal of shoes and stuff. "It's not about seeing it in a magazine and ordering it. I got to be there, touch it, got to feel that crocodile leather, feel that purse, you know. So I'm looking forward to a big retail therapy. There's only so many Mexican ponchos you can buy."

Obliging psychobabble

Of course, somebody has to spoil the fun and ask these "serious," psychobabble questions: So, what does luxury mean to you? Do you enjoy it or is it more like a necessary evil, that you would rather live in a shack but now you have to live in a mansion?

"I thought we all wanted to live in a shack," she deadpans, her eyes expressing relish.

But the reporter persists, so Catherine obliges: "Well, my life is very different, you know. My husband had houses around the world before I met him and we have houses together (in Bermuda, which they consider home; New York; Majorca, Spain; and they recently leased a house in LA). I don't take money for granted. I've worked since I was 14 years old and even before that. I used to work in singing clubs and get my salary and that was like my pocket money. I know that money doesn't come easy and so I am not flippant or frivolous with it.

"Yes, I buy some shoes from time to time but I certainly know the value of money. I certainly respect how hard my husband has worked for everything that he has. Yes, he was brought up in luxury, being the son of a movie star (Kirk Douglas). That life is different from the way I was brought up. It's a completely different world. Neither of us is extravagant, con-

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2 NATIONAL TREASURE	2 PASIYAM	2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 ALEXANDER	2 BRIDGET JONES 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON
3 ALEXANDER	BRIDGET JONES: 3 THE EDGE OF REASON	3 BRIDGET JONES: 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	7 SEED OF CHUCKY	3 THE INCREDIBLES 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	3 FIRST DAUGHTER
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS		4 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS		4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 NATIONAL TREASURE
5 SEED OF CHUCKY	4 NATIONAL TREASURE	GB1 (Greenbelt 1) 1 ALEXANDER 2:15, 5:25, 8:35		5 ALEXANDER 1:15, 4:25, 7:35, 10:45	5 THE POLAR EXPRESS
		2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40			

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'I'm the new Imelda'

From page A34

trary to what some people think. But we certainly enjoy our lives. We're able to travel and see the world and stay in nice places. I never take that for granted."

Fun with Michael

Asked what she finds fascinating in Michael, with whom she has two kids—Dylan, four, and Carys, one—2002's Oscar best supporting actress (for "Chicago") says, "We're good friends. We were born on the same day, albeit there is a 25-year difference." Like a schoolmarm but with a naughty twinkle in her eyes, she points to the assembled journalists and admonishes: "Write that down."

When the guffaws die down, she adds, "It was actually our anniversary yesterday. We celebrated our fourth last night. We just have fun together and we look out for each other."

Of course she is asked for details of how they celebrated. She reveals, "We had a wonderful lunch together and came down here. He gave me a Celtic coin that's really beautiful. He brought me coffee in bed this morning. That's always good. Usually, I grab a cup of coffee as I'm running out the door but it was nice to have a morning of just relaxing."

As for the kids, she discloses, "They're doing great together. Yesterday, on our way to visit my father-in-law Kirk, Michael and I looked back in the car. We saw Dylan and Carys holding hands, which was the first time they'd done that. It was just so cute and of course, I didn't have a camera. Terrible mother."

Tough job

Catherine is next asked how she gets the gorgeous men in

I'M THE NEW/ A39

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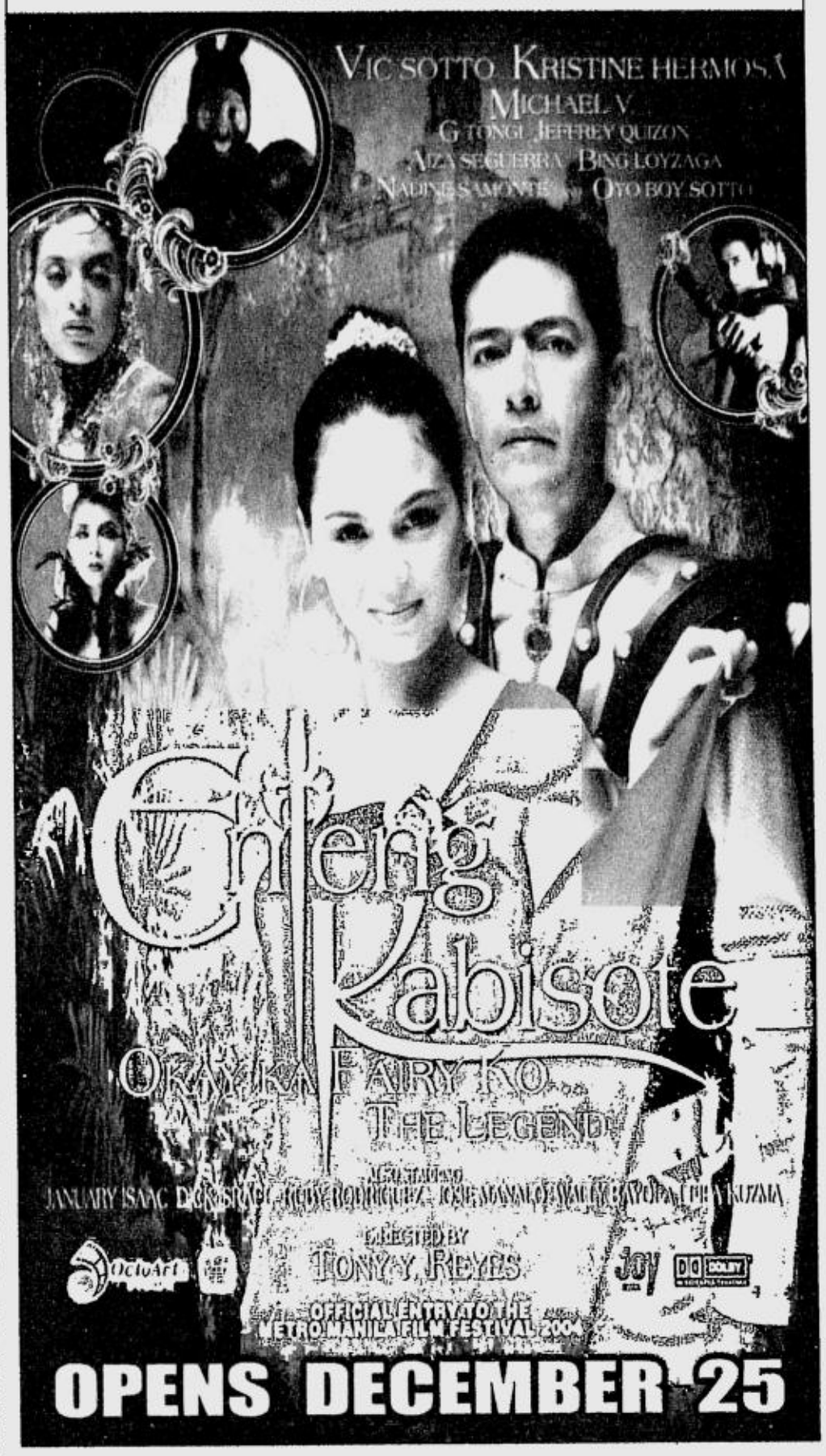

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OPENS DECEMBER 25

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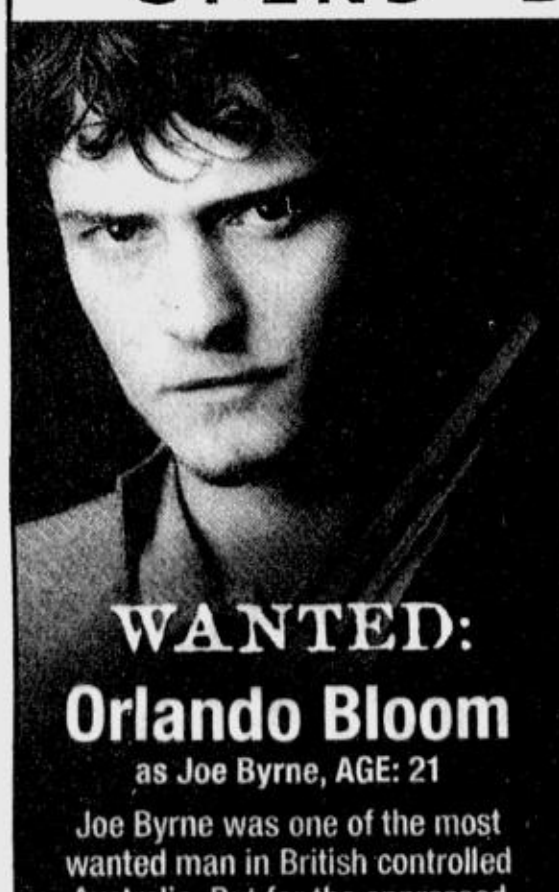

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NED KELLY

BASED ON A TRUE STORY

'I'm the new Imelda Marcos'

From page A38

her personal and professional life—Michael; George Clooney in "Intolerable Cruelty"; Brad Pitt in "Ocean's Twelve," which is set this time in Europe; and Antonio Banderas, in the "Zorro" sequel.

"Someone's got to do it," she quips and adds, jesting, "It's a tough job, I know. It's like when my husband asked, 'What are you doing today, honey?' I said, 'Oh, I'm kissing Brad Pitt.' He asked, 'Exactly what scene are you doing today?' 'Well, I'm kissing Brad Pitt on a bridge.' He said, 'Oh, have a great day.' I'm a very lucky girl, no?"

But back to being the new Imelda. Does she clean her own shoes? Again breaking into a chuckle, she states, "I clean a lot. I actually like cleaning. I'm always in my closet cleaning."

Yes, sure—if you can imagine Catherine Zeta-Jones down on her knees, brushing off Palm Springs desert sand from suede Louis Vuitton shoes.

WITH Director Steven Soderbergh. "I'm a very lucky girl."

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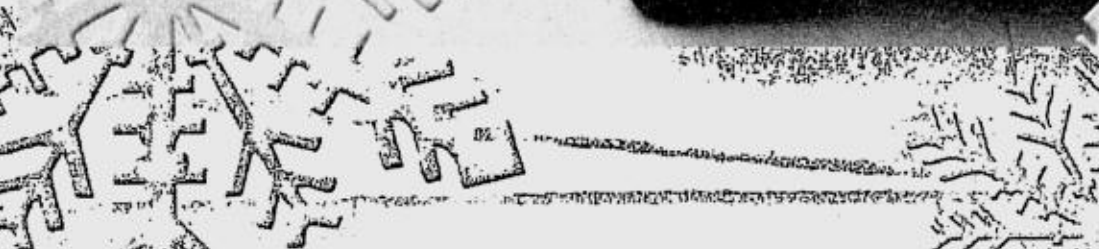

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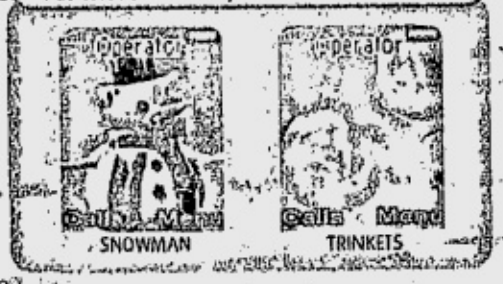

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Hong Kong movies top Asian Oscar nominees

TAIPEI—Hong Kong movies are likely to take center stage at the Chinese-language version of the Oscars in Taiwan on Saturday, with Wong Kar-wai's latest art house movie "2046" topping the list of nominations.

The film by the internationally acclaimed Hong Kong director about the love life of an erotic novelist received eight Golden Horse nominations, including best feature film, actor and actress.

Finished just in time to debut in the Cannes film festival last May, "2046" is another example of an Asian movie that has transcended language and cultural barriers to hit international screens.

The film looked to be the strongest contender, said film critic Li Ya-mei.

Tired of Hollywood

"It's not just Chinese movies. Korean movies especially are also gaining interest in Hollywood. The rise of Asian movies shows audiences are tired of a lack of creation by Hollywood and are trying to find good movies elsewhere," Li said.

But Taiwan director Alex Yang, whose "Taipei 21" won the top prize for best film at this year's Asia Pacific Film Festival, was less certain about the prospects for Asian films, which face much tighter budget constraints than Hollywood rivals.

The director said Asian movies that have enjoyed huge following around the world, such as Ang Lee's martial arts epic, "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" and Zhang Yimou's "Hero "and "House of Flying Daggers," are rare exceptions.

It is still difficult for independent Asian filmmakers to compete in Hollywood, he said.

"Movies that are popular in the West have similar characteristics. They have the backing of well-funded international movie companies and the stories fulfill the fantasy of Western audiences about the East," Yang said.

"You need the necessary ingredients to be recognized internationally and be commercially successful," he said.

Dark horse

For 41 years, Taiwan has played host to the Golden Horse awards, which showcases films from Taiwan, Hong Kong and China. This year the ceremonies will be held in the central city of Taichung.

Contestants from Hong Kong and China have stolen the spotlight in recent years, with Taiwan's once-thriving movie industry in decline.

Critics say Taiwan's slow-moving art films have lost support at home as viewers find them dull and difficult to understand and opt instead for more nail-biting US blockbusters.

Apart from "2046," which stars a bevy of top Asian actors including best actor nominee Tony Leung and best actress nominee Zhang Ziyi, Chinese director Lu Chuan's "Kekexili" is seen as a dark horse candidate for best film.

"Kekexili," a bleak portrayal of life on the Tibetan plateau, was nominated in four categories, including best director and best actor.

More contenders

Other contestants for best film are "Breaking News," which combines Hong Kong's favorite cop drama genre with its paparazzi-style journalism, and "One Nite in Mongkok," which is about gang fighting—another popular tale.

Taiwan's "The Moon Also Rises," directed by Lin Cheng-sheng, is also vying for best film and tells the story of a divorced single mother and her adolescent daughter in their sunny but isolated seashore hometown.

The melancholy drama competes in five other categories, including best actress and best screenplay adaptation.

To revive the past glory of Taiwan cinema, once the darling of international film festivals, the government is offering tax breaks and state subsidies to the industry.

"Korean movies were no better than ours in the past. If they can do it, so can we," said Liu Ching-hsiung, a Cabinet adviser with the job of drafting plans to reinvigorate Taiwan movies. *Reuters*

WONG KAR-WAI with his star Gong Li in '2046'

Malkovich in new biopic

VIENNA—John Malkovich will play the lead in a movie about the life of Austrian painter Gustav Klimt, a production company said Thursday.

The movie, titled "Klimt," depicts the life of the famous art nouveau painter whose masterpieces include the painting "The Kiss." Shooting for the movie will begin Jan. 4 in Vienna, the film's lead producer, epo-film, said in a statement.

Producers from London, Paris and Munich, Germany, are also involved in making the film, which is expected to premiere in May 2005.

"I see this film as a waltz," the film's screenwriter and director, Raoul Ruiz, said in the statement.

Malkovich eagerly accepted the offer to play Klimt, said Susanne Biro, an epo-film official.

"He was our first choice," she said. "He physically resembles Klimt and he is a good friend of Ruiz."

Veronica Ferres, Stephen Dillane and Nikolai Kinski are also slated to play roles in the film. *AP*

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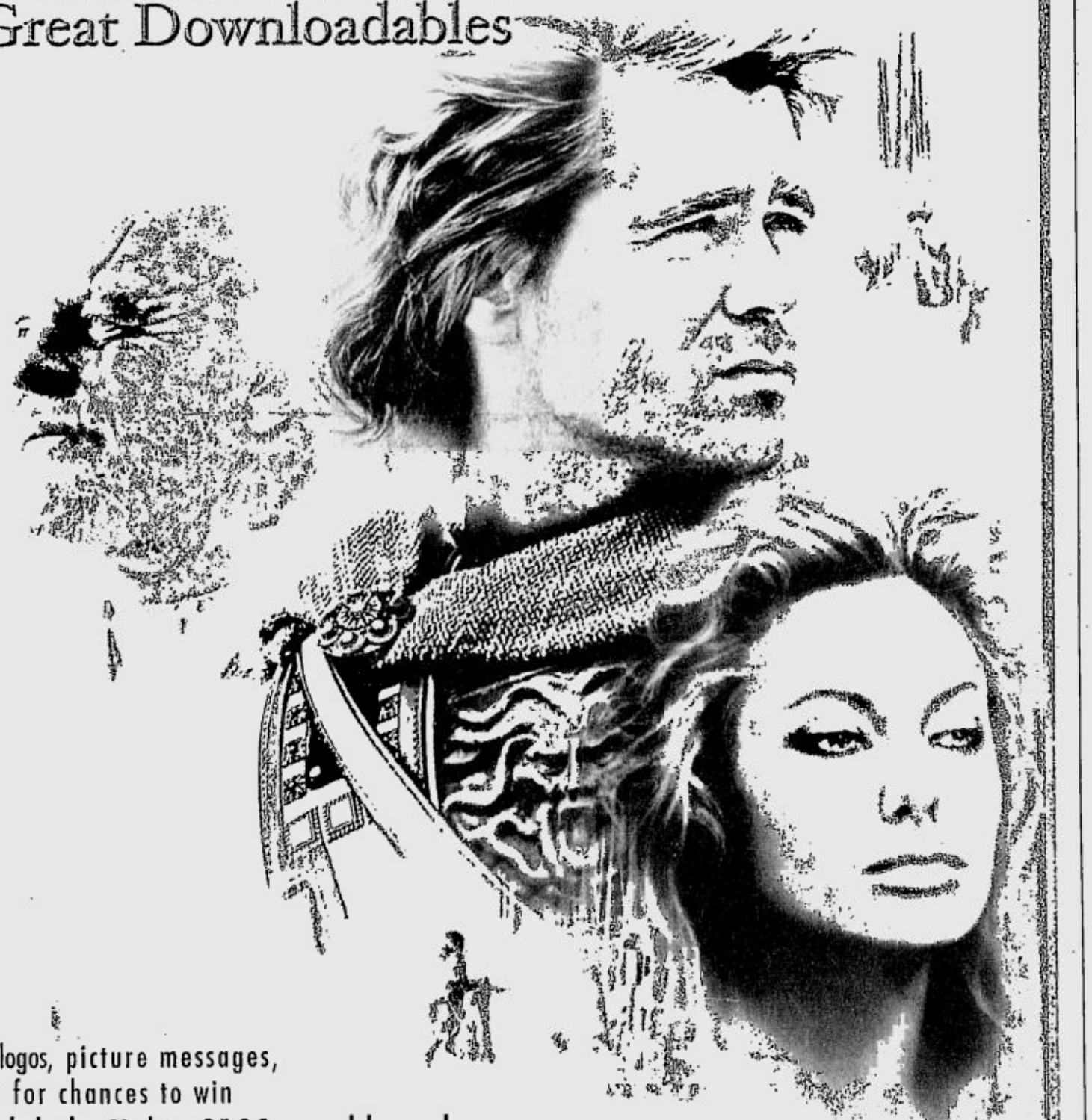

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At long last, happiness

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

JEFFREY Jeturian's latest film, "Minsan Pa" (written by Armando Lao), tells the affecting story of a tourist guide in Cebu (Jomari Yllana) who lives a life prematurely burdened with responsibilities due to his irresponsible father's having flown the coop.

As his family's breadwinner, Jomari works hard, but he finds little joy in his personal relationships. As his sad story unfolds, we get the feeling that his father's cavalier departure has traumatized him more than he wants to admit.

More, it's soured his own romantic relationships, and made him doubt if he can love well. This downbeat view of himself is confirmed when a former girlfriend is knocked up by her new beau, who leaves her high and dry—but she still turns down Jomari's offer to help.

Years later, he sees her happy with her love child and her new husband, and the blissful family tableau pains him, because he seems to have lost all hope for a happy ending to his own romantic search.

Another chance at happiness presents itself when the boyfriend Christian Vasquez of a schoolteacher (Ara Mina) is blinded in an accident, and it looks to Jomari that she could leave her beau and fall in love with him, instead.

But she also turns down his offer of lifetime love, so he loses hope once more. Unknown to him, however, he has changed in many significant ways: Taking his cue from his mother, he's finally learned to forgive his father, so one of his inner wounds has started to heal.

He's also learned to be more loving to his younger brother, by acting like a sibling rather than a second father.

Best of all, he has helped Ara in an altruistic act of love with no strings attached, and this helps heal him, as well.

That's why, when he least expects it, love does enter his life from an entirely new direction. So, at film's end, we find him startled, grateful and humbled by, at long last, happiness.

This sad, tender and finally redemptive story is very different from the usual local romantic movie's plots, especially when you consider that its protagonist is male.

He doesn't end up with his leading lady, his search takes him to areas of life beyond romance, and his problems are solved not by the usual, convenient *deus ex machina*, but by his practically being forced to heal his own wounded psyche.

We hope that this lesson isn't lost on the other cockeyed romantics out there, who blame their woes on the usual irrelevant suspects, like faithless lovers, the rich-poor conundrum, or the fickle finger of fate.

Jomari's story teaches us that, to find love, you must love yourself first—by making

AT LONG/ A2-3

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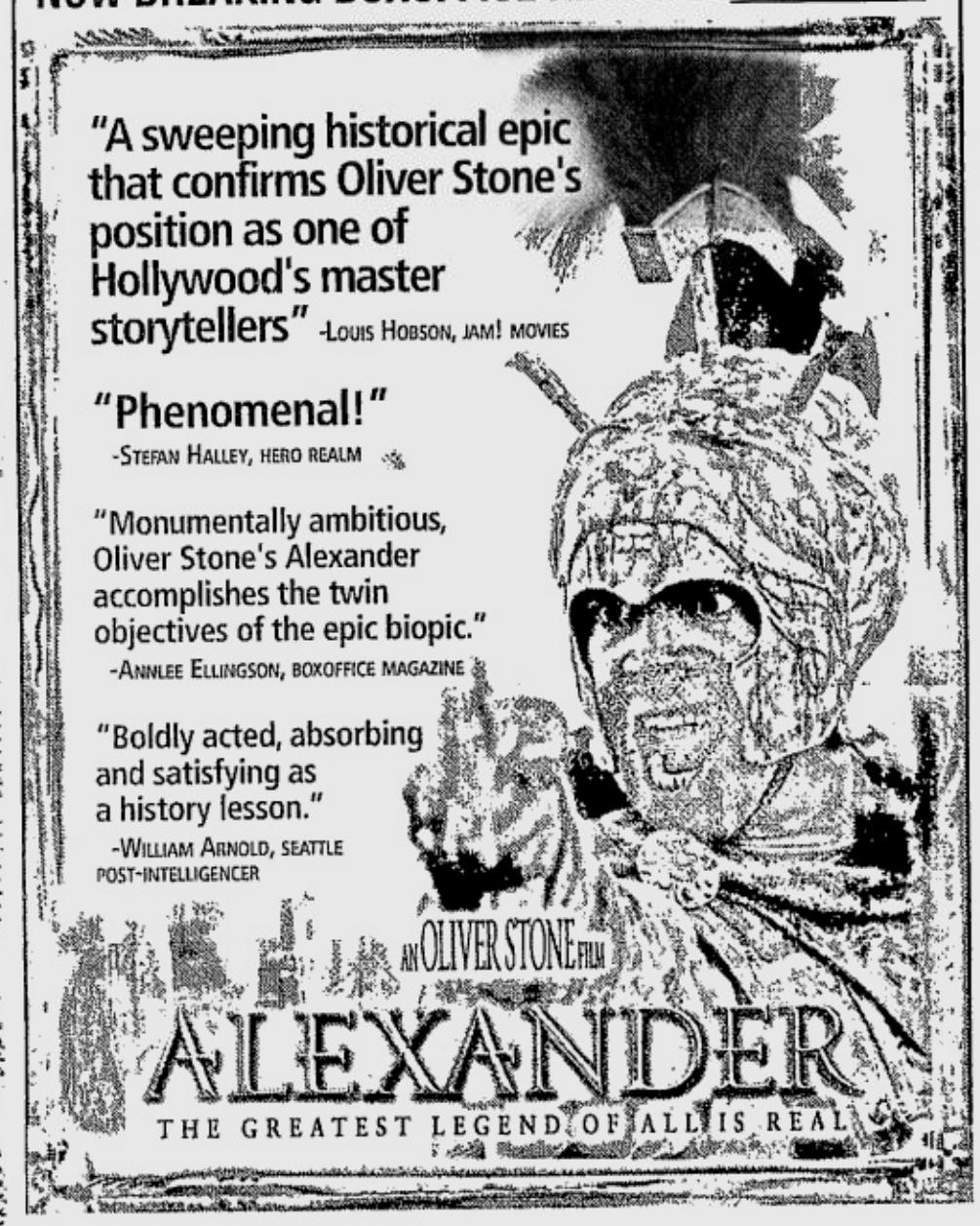

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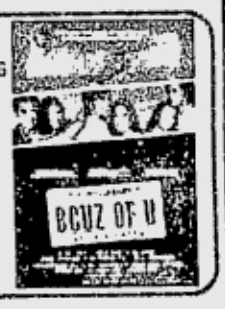
SM Baguio Cinema 4
SM Cebu Cinema 8
SM Cagayan Cinema 1
SM Pampanga Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 3
SM Iloilo Cinema 3
SM Davao Cinema 1



BCUZ OF U Subject to MTRCB RATING

SM Dasmariñas Cinema 3
SM Davao Cinema 5
SM Batangas Cinema 7
SM Lucena Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 4
SM Cebu Cinema 7
SM Pampanga Cinema 1

THE INCREDIBLES MTRCB Rating: G

SM Iloilo Cinema 4

BUNNY GUARDS SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM Davao Cinema 2

NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB Rating: G

SM Iloilo Cinema 6
SM Pampanga Cinema 4
SM Marilao Cinema 3
SM Batangas Cinema 3
SM Davao Cinema 6
SM Bacoor Cinema 5
SM Cebu Cinema 1
SM Lucena Cinema 1
SM Dasmariñas Cinema 1
SM Baguio Cinema 1

THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB RATING: G

SM Batangas Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 7
SM Cebu Cinema 3

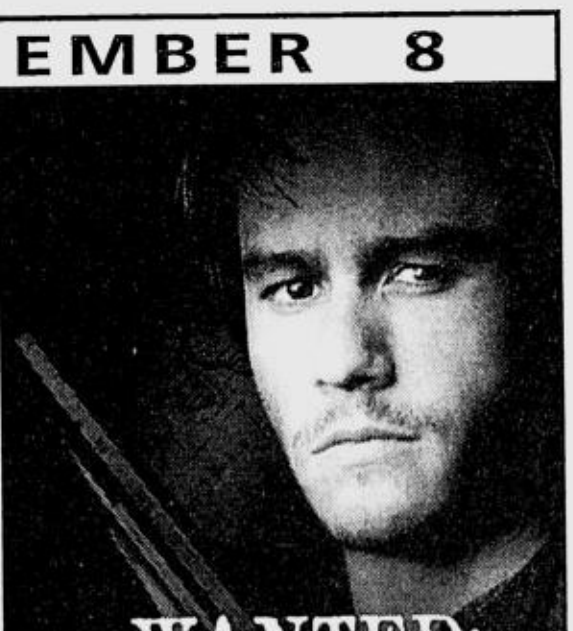
SANTA SANTITA MTRCB Rating: PG13

SM Bacoor Cinema 1

Movies are subject to change without prior notice · For complete movie schedule, visit www.smcinema.com

OPENS DECEMBER 8

Ned Kelly's original armor was manufactured from the iron mouldboards of a plough. Ready to face off against the police anytime. The Kelly Gang did their best to protect themselves from gunfire. (PHOTO BELOW)

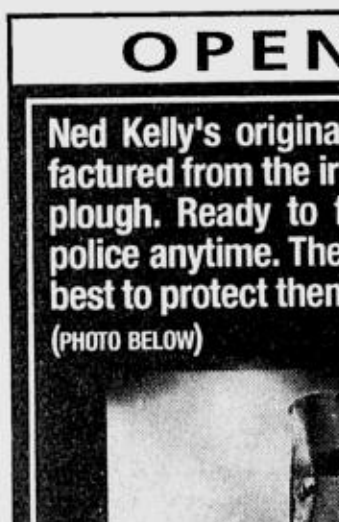


WANTED: Heath Ledger as Ned Kelly, AGE: 25

Branded PUBLIC ENEMY #1 by the British but a hero among the oppressed. Like Robin Hood before him, 19th century Ned robbed from the rich and gave to the poor. £8,000 was offered for his capture – at the time, the highest reward the world had known.

NED KELLY
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

JOB Market More employment opportunities in today's PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



ALIEN vs. PREDATOR

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At long last, happiness

From page A2-2

yourself whole. Only when you are lovable to yourself can others see you through *your* eyes, and find a lot to love.

The process isn't easy. Still, you must see it through, going from one personal relationship to the next, "Minsan Pa," never losing hope in yourself and others, until it all finally comes beautifully together.

Jeturian's film has other insights to share, and goes in other, different directions. But it is the hopeful arc to Jomari's story that we find most affecting and illuminating of all.

Feedback

FROM ROBERT T. Velez of Cebu City: "I've noticed that you haven't come up with your boob-tube booboos for a long time now. Please give us a fresh batch, so we have something to laugh about. The way our problems are piling up, we need to have a lighthearted lift once in a while!"

* * *

From **Paul R. Mortel** of Marikina City: "It's already December, but I notice that no TV station is plugging any coming TV special, like 'Christmas at the White House.'"

Torres High School reunion

THERE will be a reunion of Torres High School graduates, Batch 1983, on Dec. 29 at Alicia bldg., Juan Luna Stree, Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila. For details, log on to ths83@yahoogroups.com, or call **Michelle de Guzman** at 436-8440.

Power Memory

FOR YEARS, Power Memory has trained many students and educators to bridge short and long-term memory. Like a computer, the mind is taught to store thoughts and information in a more orderly fashion, to reduce clutter. Now, Power Memory is opening its doors to investors. Its franchising arm is committed to giving full support to would-be entrepreneurs. Call 687-1010.

'Motown in Motion'

AT 10:30 tonight, ABS-CBN airs "Motown in Motion," a concert to raise funds to benefit the Bantay Kalikasan La Mesa Watershed and Eco Park project. The show fields an all-star cast of sinners.

'Rides'

TWO celebrity-packed episodes of "Rides," the Discovery Channel's series on customized dream machines and their makers, will be telecast at 10 tonight. Replays are at 1 p.m. on Dec. 6, and 9 a.m. on Dec. 12.

YLLANA

'ALEXANDER' most talked about film of the year

The three-time Academy award winner Oliver Stone is undoubtedly one of the most controversial directors in Hollywood, making films that are remarkable for both the way in which their subject matter is handled and the degree of controversy such handling inspires.

Not everyone is happy about Alexander. So revered is this great man that top greek lawyers with the sanction of the Greek government, are suing the film's producers for its no-holds-barred portrayal of the Macedonian leader.

Critics were divided. Some called it a masterpiece while others denounced it as a mess.

But love it or hate it. 'Alexander' is no doubt the year's most talked-about movie.

Although it did not break boxoffice records during the 'General Patronage' Thanksgivng slot, it was the highest grossing 'Adult Rated' Thanksgiving film now on record.

The great news is that on the international front "Alexander" is opening great and topping the charts everywhere It appears that the producers are expecting international results that are comparable to "Troy," which did twice as well in the proportion of international to domestic grosses.

Following is a recap of the first few openings:

Scandinavia: The film was a solid No. 1 in all three markets where it opened.

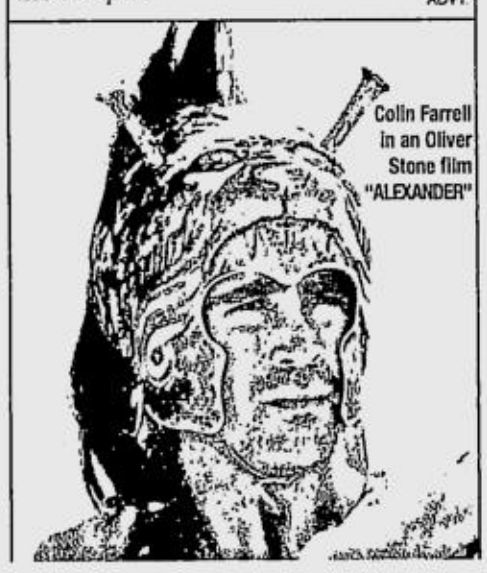
Russia: Estimated grosses show a fantastic performance at approx. $3.7 Million on 345 screens for a No. 1 opening.

Asia: Taiwan, Philippines,Malaysia opened at # 1 with spectacular bows.

Turkey: The No. 1 foreign film this weekend.

The film is scheduled to open this coming weekend via Warner Bros. in Mexico; in Norway, Greece, Portugal, Israel and the UAE in Europe & Middle East; Singapore in Asia; and in Latvia, Lithuania & Serbia in Ea. Europe. •

ADVT.



Colin Farrell in an Oliver Stone film "ALEXANDER"

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TOM HANKS
THE POLAR EXPRESS
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON... BELIEVE

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MAPAPAOS KA SA KASISIGAW
Featuring the voice of
BILLY BOYD
(of "The Lord of the Rings")
CHUCKY
TIFFANY
JENNIFER TILLY
REDMAN
SEED OF CHUCKY
WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

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Hayan na s'ya, puputulin n'ya...
Patay kang bata ka!
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FROM THE PRODUCER OF "PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN"
NICOLAS CAGE
NATIONAL TREASURE
IN ORDER TO BREAK THE CODE, ONE MAN WILL HAVE TO BREAK ALL THE RULES.
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

NOW ON ITS 4TH WEEK!
MTRCB RATING ▸ G ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
FROM THE CREATORS OF FINDING NEMO
Disney PIXAR
THE INCREDIBLES
Disney-Pixar
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Opens December 8
MTRCB RATING ▸ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
From the creators of The Ring and Ju-On : The Grudge 2
ONE MISSED CALL
Death Cannot Be Put On Hold .....
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING ▸ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
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2046
OPENS DECEMBER 8

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

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Don't miss your favorite TV shows!
Check out today's Inquirer TV Guide in the Entertainment section
Happy Viewing!

SONIA FERREROS: "She confided in me."

Dino's mom hurts over his breakup with Kim

'Had they not involved the public, they could have sorted things out,' Sonia Ferreros says

By Marinel R. Cruz

I HOPE Dino can now concentrate on taking care of his two children. I also hope he stays single."

That was Sonia Ferreros talking about her actor son, Dino Guevarra, two days after his wife, Kim de los Santos, flew to the United States following a violent and very public breakup.

"Kim is a very kind-hearted person," Dino's mom told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday. "I think she should follow what her heart dictates and not what other people say. When she is able to do that, she'll be able to survive her problems.

Last Nov. 21, Kim told "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN that, six days earlier at around 8 p.m., Dino drove her out of the apartment they were renting in Fairview, Quezon City.

Mom's advice

On nationwide television, a sobbing Kim accused her husband of womanizing and abusing her verbally and physically. The two were together for eight years. They met in the early 1990s as members of the cast of GMA 7's teen series "TGIS."

On Nov. 27, Kim left for the US to spend time with her father who, according to her, never approved of the relationship.

"Kim and I were close. She confided in me," Sonia said during an interview in her Parañaque City home. "I always told her, 'If you really love your man, you have to sacrifice.' She would ask, 'Until when, Mommy?' I told her to be patient. I would say, 'Everything has an end. Your man will eventually correct his ways."

She said Kim had run to her days before the couple's last and biggest fight. "She said she couldn't take it anymore. I just shrugged it off. I told myself they'd be able to solve their problems. I didn't want to meddle."

Besides, Sonia said, the best advice "is the one that comes from the Lord." She believed the couple should pray for God to help save the marriage.

In any case, she talked with Dino a few days after the fight. "Although he admitted he said terrible things to Kim," Sonia recalled, "he denied he had another woman. He said the woman Kim was talking about was just a friend."

Painful for all

She insisted that the whole family loves Kim "so much," that the situation "is also very painful for us. I treat my in-laws like my own children, especially Kim. I spent more time with her than with any of my other children's partners."

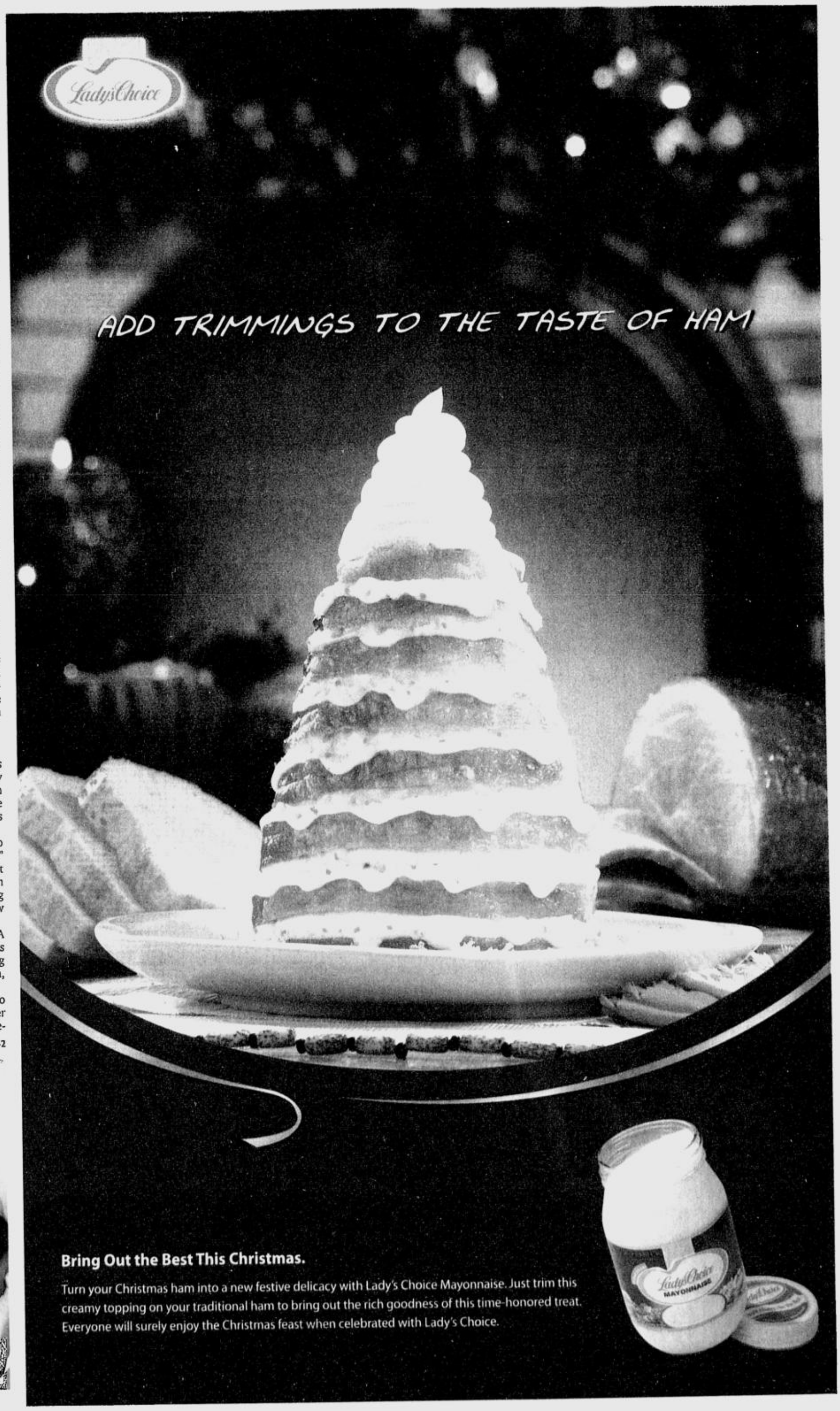
Sonia described her son as "not the type to talk about his problems with just anyone." Therefore, she said, he never liked the fact that Kim told her all their troubles. "But Kim and I became close because I insist on visiting them in Fairview. I always wanted to see how they were doing."

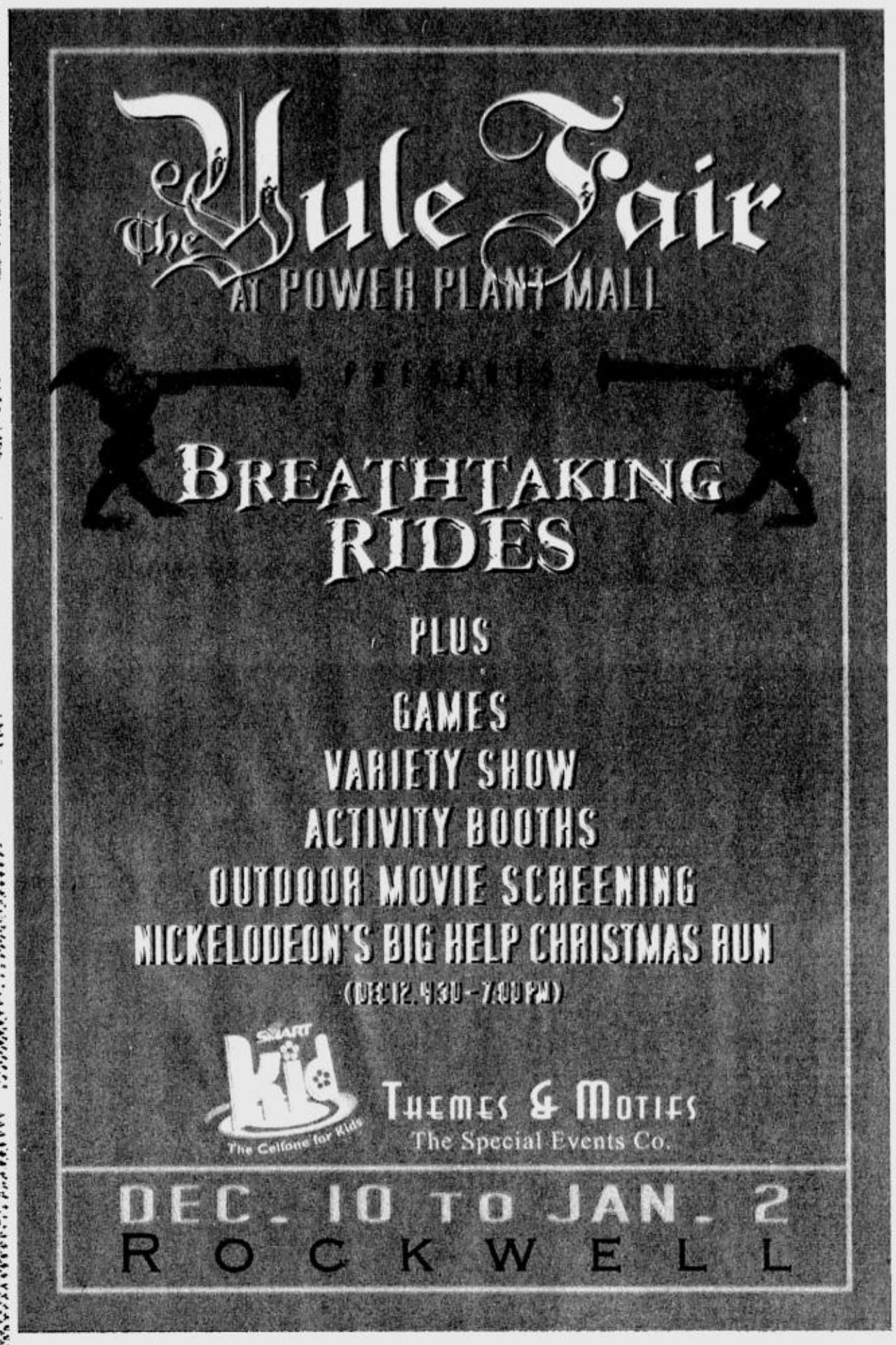
Last Sunday, Dino appeared live on GMA 7's "S-Files" at about the same time that Kim's taped interview with Boy Abunda was being aired on "The Buzz" on the rival station, Channel 2.

"S-Files" director Rico Gutierrez decided to cut the interview by host Paolo Bediones after Dino started weeping and cursing as he de-

DINO'S/ A3-2

DINO AND KIM: Young and so in love





Dino's mom hurts over his breakup with Kim

From page A3-1

nied Kim's accusations, and claimed that he had in fact found love letters that she had written to another man.

The real him

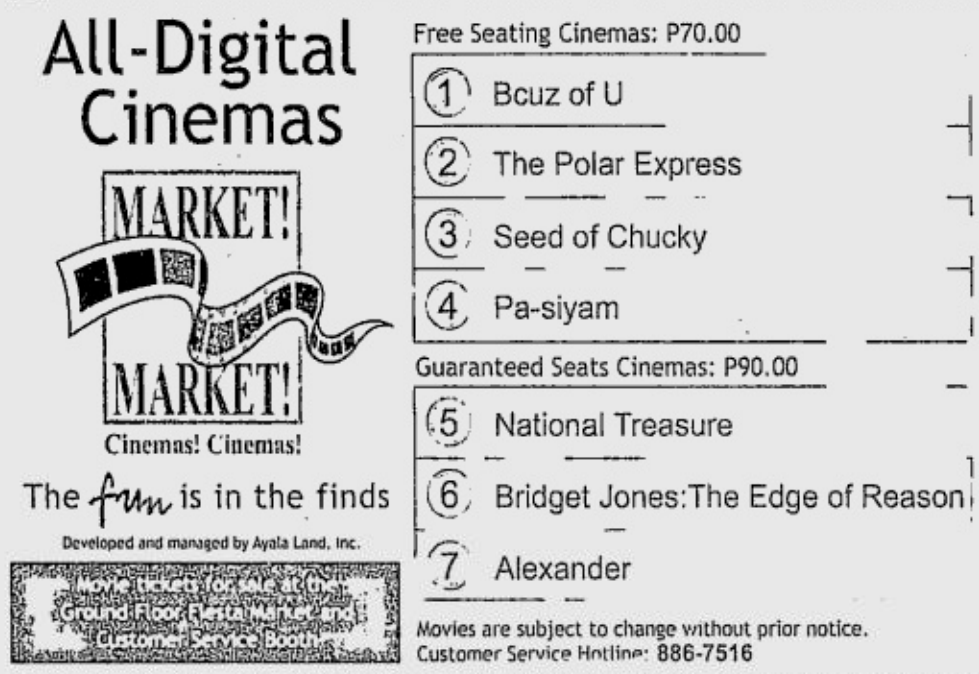
"The Dino that you saw on television [last Sunday] was not the *artista*," said Sonia. "That was really him, angry and hurting.

"I was supposed to give a message for him and Kim. I was to tell Dino to sit down and talk with Kim again. Had they not involved the public, they could have sorted things out. Now I think it will take long before they can make up. I know Dino. When someone hurts him, it takes time before that someone can win back his trust."

Dino—who is in the cast of GMA 7's "Bahay Mo Ba 'To," with Tessie Tomas and Ronaldo Valdez—is Dino Ross in real life, son of an Australian father, a scientist. From his mother's previous relationship, Dino has six brothers and three sisters, all surnamed Ferreros.

Sonia said because Dino was a menopausal baby, she tended to be softer on him than on the older children. "I raised my kids to be independent. I taught them to fend for themselves at an early age— I was taught that way, too. But Dino is special. He is my youngest. He was so beautiful when he was a child. He had golden, curly hair. I think I spoiled him."

"DINO is special. I think I spoiled him."



Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2		SCQ Reload		The Buzz			Rated K			Wansapanataym			Ang Tanging Ina		Sunday Family Cinema				The Weekend News
NBN		Value Vision						Go For Gold		Musicore Cup 2003				Gold & Glory in Greece					Unlimited Diving
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA										Viva Cine Idols				ABC Onstage	
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love			S-Files			Mel & Joey			Kaka		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office		
RPN 9		Goll Power	Auto Extreme	Kids TV	Road Trip	To Be Announced		Headlines Exposed		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Just For Laughs		Sunday's Big Event				The Working President	A Second Look
IBC 13	V League					Home Shopping Network		Gerry Peñafiosa versus Bongsaen Simpraprom						In This Corner		Ate Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
Solar	Tough Enough	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		WWE Bottomline		WWE Afterburn		Pride FC				Stardoll	
Nickelodeon	Double Decker				Sabrina The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Fairly Odd Parents	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Yakkity Yak	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	Danny Phantom	All Grown Up	Double Decker				The Ren & Stimpy Show	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Hit Chart				Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Dateline		Star Search		Must My Folks		NBC Nightly News	What I Like About You	The O C		Girls Behaving Badly	Simple Life 2	For Love Or Money		Nip Tuck		Dateline	
Studio 23								Ngiwig: The Hidden Files		Survivor Vanuatu		Two & A Half Men	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	The Bachelor		
AXN			Single White Female				Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	AXN Shakedown		The Amazing Race		Fear Factor		CSI: Miami		The 4400		The Amazing Race	
Star World	Young Posh & Loaded	For Love Or Money		The Apprentice		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		The Simpsons	The Kumars At No. 42	Oprah Prime Time/ Mas Earth 2004		The X-Files		Enterprise		The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time
CNN	Design 360	World News	International Correspondents	World News	Next@CNN	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	People In The News	World News	Next@CNN	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Explorations Powered By Duracell		Samsung Best Of The Week		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Built For The Kill		Innovation/ Rolex Awards		Megastructures		Secrets Unveiled/ Descent Into Hell		Explorations Powered By Duracell		Samsung Best Of The Week	
Solar Sports		FIVB Beach World Tour Klagenfurt			IBF Yonex Singapore Open 2004			NBA TV Daily	NBA Action	Override ep 24	Manny Pacquiao Period		NBA TV Daily	Miami vs Denver (replay)					NBA Jam
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		Modern Girl's Guide	El Entertainment Special					Planet Parent	Mojo Mario
HBO		Juwanna Mann (3.15 PM)			Race To Space (4.45 PM)				Deep Shock			The Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers						Kangaroo Jack (10.55PM)	
Star Movies		In Hell			Baby's Day Out (4.45 PM)				Shanghai Knights				Opening Night	Wrong Turn			The In-Laws		
Cartoon Network		New Scooby & Scrappy-Doo	The Detective Squad	Cadenama Kids Next Door	Duck Dodgers	X-Men Evolution	The Powerpuff Girls	Atomic Betty	Xiaolin Showdown	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles					Power Rangers Wild Force	Zoids: Fuzors	Time Squad	Duck Dodgers	Xiaolin Showdown
ESPN		Pro Billiards '04 Int'l Challenge of Champs USA		Big 10 Conference Basketball 2004-05				Atlantic Coast Conference Basketball				Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '04 Poland		Pro Billiards '04 BCA Open 9-Ball Champs Fin.		Eng. Premier Football League 04/05			
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina's Secret Life	Lion King's Timon & Pumbaa	Quack Pack	Viva S Club	Martin Mystery/ That's So Raven/ Dave The Barbarian/Phil Of The Future				Lizzie Mcguire	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax		Cinema Secrets (Ep 6: Destructive Force	Edge Of Madness			3 Ninja's Kick Back (5.15PM)				Panic Room				American Crime			Threshold		
Hallmark Channel		She's Too Young				David Copperfield Part 1				David Copperfield Part 2				Midsomer Murders: Garden Of Death			Out Of Order (10.35PM)		
Discovery Channel		Full Metal Challenge		Science Mysteries		Rides		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Cathay Pacific		Discovery Sunday				Power Zone	
MTV Philippines		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Brand New	Wildboyz	The Assistant	MTV Jams				Punk'D		Newlyweds	World Chart Express	Pimp My Ride				
Sports Plus		NFL						WTA Finals Linz				Raceworld		Get A Grip	Slipstream		Inside the PGA	The Tour Clship HL Show	
EWTN	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Angelus (3.15 PM)	Pope Pius XII	Children's Rosary	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Octavia Dies	EWTN Bookmark	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	EWTN Global Showcase		The Way To Follow Jesus	St. Matthew	Sunday Mass			Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

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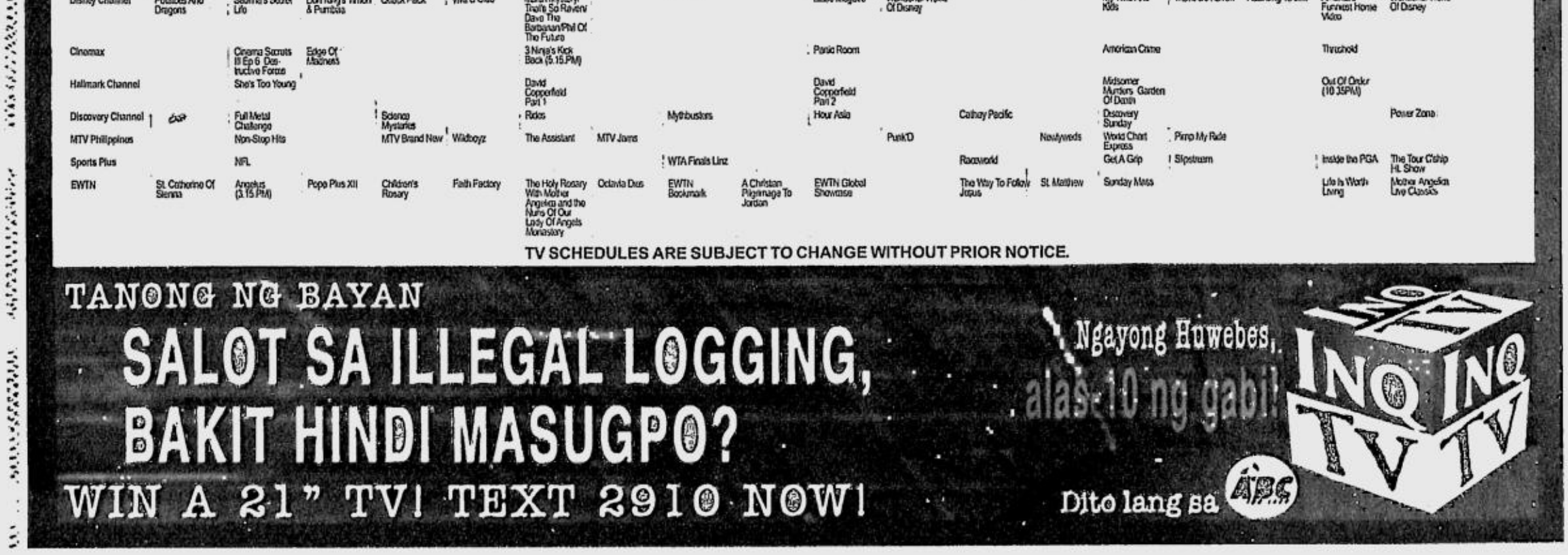


Alone again

DIESEL MAN. In varsity jacket with checkered lining and peach and apple green trim. At left, striped sweater in grey and peach paired with ash grey cargo jeans.

By Larry Leviste, *Contributor*
Photos by Egay L. Montaña

LIGHTS, camera.

The soap operatic split-up of Dino Guevarra and wife Kim de los Santos has been televised and tabloid-ized to death.

Last Sunday, like the sad ending of a *telenovela*, Kim left for the United States. Her plane ticket was reportedly purchased by television hosts Kris Aquino and Boy Abunda. Boy had the last interview with Kim for "Kontrobersyal."

Dino said he rushed to the airport wearing only shorts and a T-shirt because, he would later reveal, Kim had texted him at the last minute: "If you stop me, I'll stay." But when he saw TV cameras at the gate, he decided not to push it.

"I love her still," the young actor would say on nationwide television, in tears. "She's my wife. I wish all the other people realize that this is just between the two of us."

For whatever it's worth, the ballad of Kim and Dino plays on.

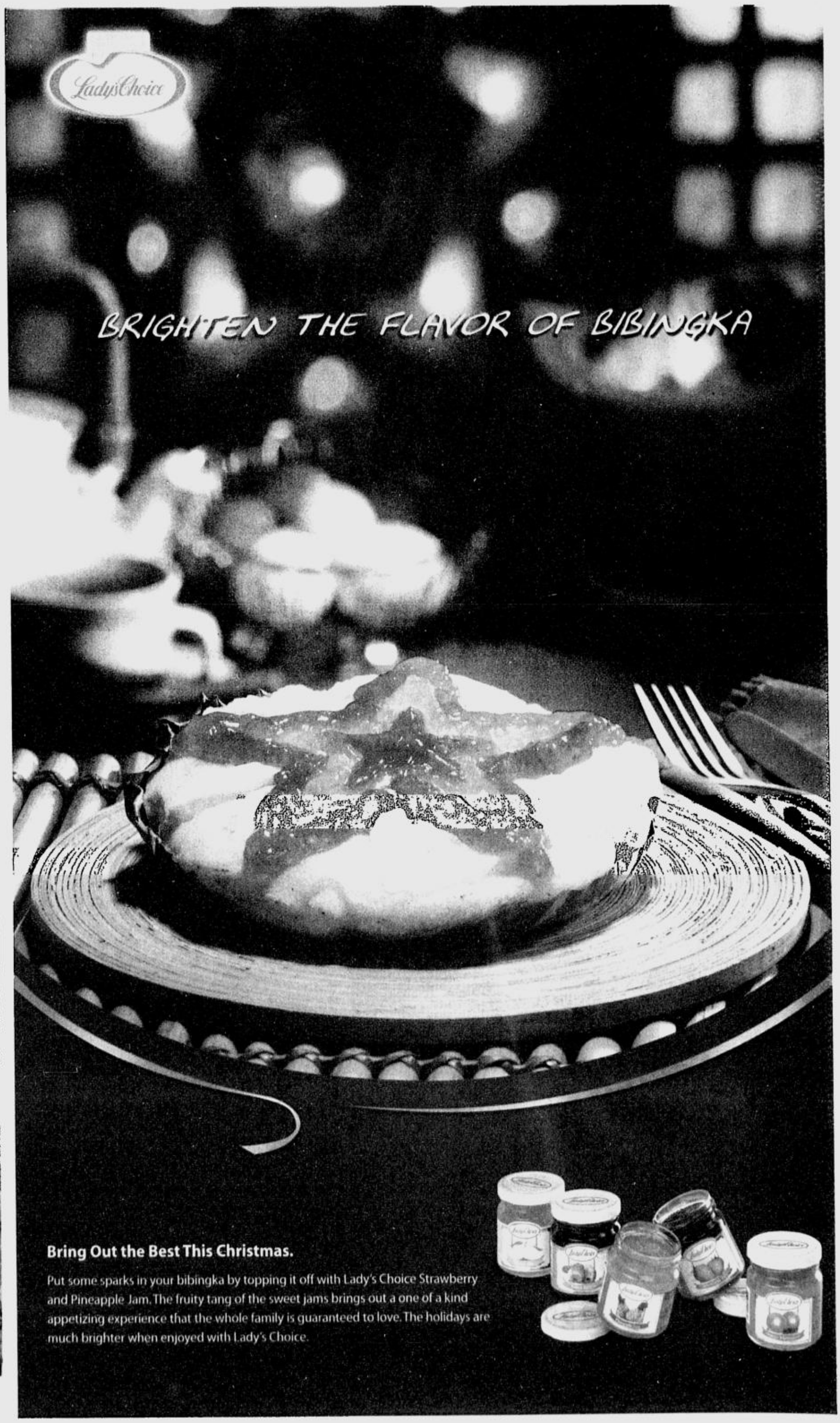
This exclusive PDI pictorial shows Dino Guevarra modeling Diesel sportswear only a week before his world, as he himself put it, "came crashing down."

HAIR BY ARLENE LIZARDO
MAKE-UP BY JUANITA ARSENIO FOR SALON PRIVE, MAKATI SHANGRI-LA
FASHION BY DIESEL, AVAILABLE AT GREENBELT 3

NOT SO BLUED. Blossom rib trimmed jacket, worn with jeans.

SOLO. Bomber jacket in white twill with windowpane checkered pants and a tee.

CLASSIC. Take on the '50s with lumberjack plaid shirt and button-fly indigo denims.



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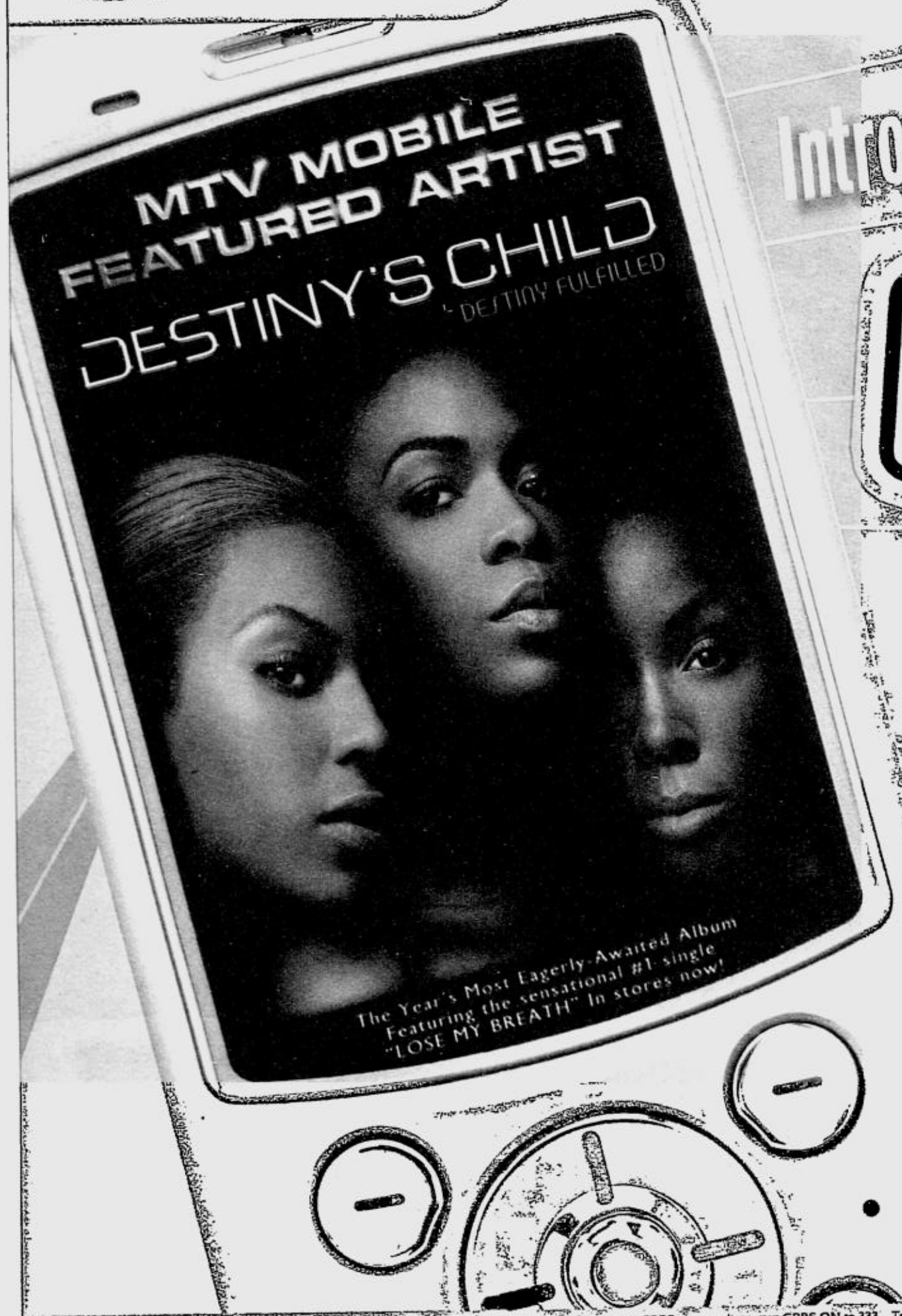

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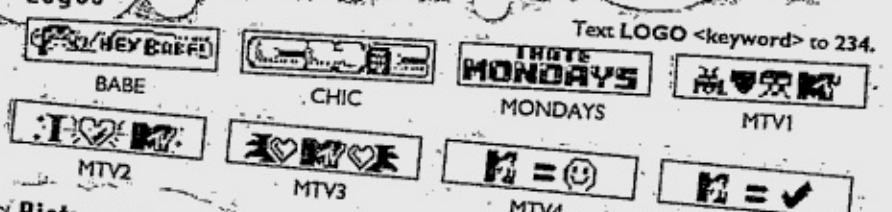

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"I LOVE my job and have taken good care of it."

BUSY, BUSY

Hard work pays off for Jolina

IF 2004 WAS good, 2005 will be even better.

This is what people are saying about singer, actress and TV host Jolina Magdangal, who is gearing up for what will undoubtedly be a very busy time for her next year.

Jolina currently has four regular shows, three on GMA 7—"Starstruck," "Love 2 Love," and "SOP Rules"—plus "The Working President." She says she particularly enjoys hosting the latter, because it lends her career a different dimension. She gets to interview Cabinet secretaries, mayors, congressmen and occasionally, the President herself.

SHOW STOPPER

Loving it

During one of these few occasions, the crew was busy setting up in one corner of Malacañang when Jolina saw the President coming, her brow furrowed and her face the picture of intense concentration. But when she saw Jolina, Ms Macapagal-Arroyo broke into a wide smile and asked how she was. They ended up chatting about the President's grandchildren and other things that had nothing to do with government matters.

"I could see she's serious about her work," Jolina says of the President. "But she was very nice to me."

Next year, the singer-actress is looking forward to still hosting the show, on top of which many other things are lined up. These include concert tours of Asia, Europe and the United States, a second album with GMA Records, and the launch of new products for Jolina's Fashion Gallery.

No regrets

That she is as active as ever after 15 years in the business is the result of hard work, Jolina says. "I love my job, and I have taken care of it. I sacrificed for it. I have no regrets."

Her career has been very good to her in turn. She has bought a house in an exclusive subdivision in Quezon City—a dream since she was just a child attending workshops with Repertory Philippines. At the time she was a regular in "Ang TV," which was being taped in a big house. She told herself she wanted a house just like that. Jolina took a photograph of it and kept the snapshot under her pillow.

Years later, after buying the house that her family is now living in, Jolina looked at the photograph again. She was surprised at the uncanny similarities. "So now," she says, "I look around the house and wonder—is this really ours?"

Kapuso Foundation needs help for typhoon victims

THE GMA Kapuso Foundation, GMA Network's socio-civic arm, announces that it is "in dire need" of donations for relief operations in the provinces of Quezon and Nueva Ecija and in the Bicol Region—areas most devastated by the strong typhoons that recently hit the country.

The refugee centers in these typhoon-ravaged areas are swarming with thousands of families who lost their homes in flash floods and landslides that killed a still undetermined number of people.

Medicines, mats, blankets, foods, clothes and toiletries (soaps, toothpastes, toothbrushes, etc.) are most needed in the refugee centers. Donations may be delivered to the GMA Kapuso Foundation office (11th Jamboree St. corner Edsa, Diliman, Quezon City) Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Cash donations may also be deposited to the Foundation's Metrobank accounts: numbers 3-098-51034-7 for peso donations, and 2-098-00244-2 for dollar donations.

'Feng Shui' now on DVD, VCD

STAR Cinema's biggest horror blockbuster, "Feng Shui," is now available on video.

The movie stars Kris Aquino and is directed by Chito S. Roño. The video release—on DVD, VCD and VHS format—is sponsored by Smart Buddy, in cooperation with Star Records of ABS-CBN.

The story unfolds when Joy and her family move into a new home. In a bus, Joy finds a mirror called *bagua*, which she installs on her front door. This starts a series of mysterious and unfortunate events.

Written by Roy Iglesias, "Feng Shui" stars Jay Manalo, Lotlot de Leon, Jenny Miller, Gerard Pizarras, John Vladimir Manalo, Julianne Gomez, Ernest Sto. Tomas and Ilonah Jean.

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DEC 2, 04 - 16 11 07 03 10 21 02
DEC 3, 04 - 26 18 24 29 30 07 11

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week 1
NOV 15, 04 - 05 23 08 16 15 07 30
NOV 16, 04 - 19 22 03 28 12 13 27
NOV 17, 04 - 01 28 27 24 09 30 04
NOV 18, 04 - 21 09 08 14 27 23 24
NOV 19, 04 - 05 25 23 12 18 06 14

week 2
NOV 20, 04 - 29 23 05 22 02 06 20
NOV 22, 04 - 15 05 17 10 26 04 24
NOV 23, 04 - 06 30 25 10 26 04 01
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'Bunso': A tug at the heart, a permanent rage

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

MOMENTS after watching "Bunso," I could not bring myself to speak. Its director **Ditsi Carolino** and camera person **Nana Buxani** were there, and I almost wished they hadn't been.

Of course, I could have said straightaway: *Moving, intense, graphic, finely crafted.* I could also have said: *An indictment of the justice system, of education and social welfare, and of the church stand on family planning.*

Again, I could have said: *A compelling reminder about the things we need to do for those of whom it has been said, They shall inherit the earth.* I might even have added: *A more outstanding offering on Human Rights Day will be hard to find.*

And I would have been calling it exactly as I saw it. All those statements would have been correct and honest and rational. For indeed, this documentary on children in prison is every one of those things.

But, somehow, I could not make myself speak. And I think now it was because, while my mind knew right away what it wanted to say, my senses were still back in that jail, working, frantically, to memorize the faces of Itsoy, Anthony, and Diosel.

Somehow, I felt that speaking would break my memory. And I did not want to forget.

> Itsoy, 11, Anthony, 13, and Diosel, 11—boys who should be inheriting the earth. Where are they now?

A face and a name

It is even clearer now that the wonder of Ditsi and Nana is in the way they always put a face and a name to what may be, to others, largely an issue, a cause, a problem.

Where others like to provide overviews, these two cut up slices of life. Where others explain the problem, these two just go ahead with their anecdotes. And where others like to sound intelligent and big, these two simply carry on, catching the irony, freezing that vacant look, seizing a boy in song—and capturing them all in their PD150 camera.

These two have done it this way before, of course. Their 1996 documentary, "Minsan Lang Sila Bata," was filled with children working in abattoirs and sweatshops. Their 2002 work, "Riles," was the funny-sad story of a family living along the railroad tracks. And now, at the tail-end of 2004, their "Bunso" is the tale of three young inmates in a Visayan jail.

But it would be so wrong to think that these documentaries don't bring in the bigger picture.

Take "Bunso." It may look like its material is simply about three boys behind bars, but it should not be a big leap for anyone watching "Bunso" to start asking: Just what do we have by way of a juvenile justice bill anyway?

In fact, when **Ray Dean Salvosa** of the Consuelo Foundation—named after Doña **Consuelo Zobel Alger**—proposed this material to Ditsi and Nana, it was with the intent of getting such a bill, moribund in the House since 1999, passed.

But more than that, says Ray, he wanted a documentary that would alter society's attitude toward minors in prison. In Ray's view, "They are not criminals when they go to jail, they are one-time offenders. But the system processes them into becoming criminals."

That Ray can think like this, when in 1990 his own brother was "murdered by two boys," reveals, not only the depth of his understanding of this problem, but of his belief in children.

It is a belief that, with their every work, Ditsi and Nana have proved they share.

Their prologue and epilogue texts in "Bunso" go right ahead to announce that they feel a "moral imperative" to do this documentary, so that they may do their bit in righting the wrong committed against the 58,000 children still trapped in jails all over the country.

And they've made this point even stronger by making Itsoy, 11, Anthony, 13, and Diosel, 11—their ages when "Bunso" began filming in 2001—their stars in this 63-minute documentary.

DOCUMENTARY filmmakers Nana Buxani (left) and Ditsi Carolino at the World Premiere of "Bunso" at the 2004 International Documentary Film Festival in Amsterdam

No hard sell

But it is to Ditsi and Nana's credit that they do not tell the viewer what to feel. They do not insult by spelling things out. They leave the stories to write themselves.

Instead of summing up Itsoy's cynicism, for instance, they let the scenes make the point. Itsoy hisses at his mother: "You said I would be out Friday! How many Fridays have passed? So many Fridays!" But the mother, seizing upon his tone, says, "You're a bad kid! You stay locked up in there. You're good for nothing!"

They did not even want to add music originally. And wisely, they leave the last scene to the artless Diosel who sings, for the camera, a Max Surban song talking about children obeying their parents, going to school, respecting their teachers, and looking to the future.

It is up to the viewer to understand that the boy is singing about a world he will never have. It is also up to the viewer to believe that the boy is simply singing because he wants his moment before the camera.

The viewer has a choice.

This is not to say that Ditsi and Nana do not shape the stories to say what they want said. No artist worth the name can be found so remiss.

And so their choice of Itsoy, Diosel, and Anthony.

But where Itsoy was a wild cat, feisty, and a survivor, Diosel was a charming innocent. Diosel went to prison because he stole one peso coins from a store and three cans of sardines.

As Diosel tells it, when the store owner suddenly returned, he wanted to put back the coins, 44 in all, but could not because they would rattle and give his hiding place away. And there were three cans of sardines because one was for himself, one for his brother, and a third for his friend.

The store owner actually forgave him, saying it was too small a thing to send the boy to jail for. It was Diosel's father that had him locked up anyway.

Anthony

But of the three boys in "Bunso," it is Anthony I have most memorized.

Anthony was intelligent, polite, full of life. But he had to be the original poster boy for hard knocks.

His father, whenever drunk, punched him in the ribs, tied him in chains, threatened to kill him, and had once run him down with an oar. His pregnant mother, who hated her husband, told Anthony it was better for him to stay in jail where he was safe from his father.

At the time the documentary was shot, Anthony had been in and out of prison three times. By then, he had small tattoos here and there. Well, he stole for a living, he said. Adding sheepishly: "You'll never believe how much I've stolen. The biggest was . . 90 thousand pesos!"

Then he made clear, his voice all earnest: "I steal only from the rich and never from the poor."

In fact, he is a kind-hearted kid, who bothered to tell another boy, who was younger than him and who was without a single shirt, that he would find him one. At the time, Anthony himself had been wearing his shorts and jacket for ten days straight because they were the only clothes he had.

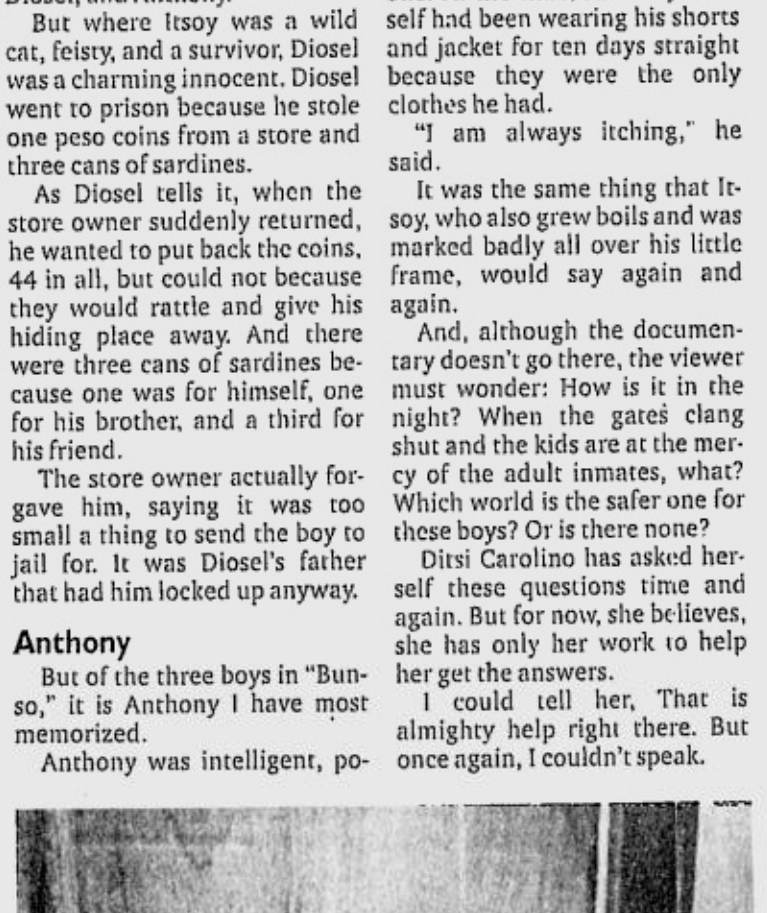
"I am always itching," he said.

It was the same thing that Itsoy, who also grew boils and was marked badly all over his little frame, would say again and again.

And, although the documentary doesn't go there, the viewer must wonder: How is it in the night? When the gates clang shut and the kids are at the mercy of the adult inmates, what? Which world is the safer one for these boys? Or is there none?

Ditsi Carolino has asked herself these questions time and again. But for now, she believes, she has only her work to help her get the answers.

I could tell her, That is almighty help right there. But once again, I couldn't speak.



A STILL image from the documentary film "Bunso," which will have its Philippine premiere at the UP Film Institute on Friday, Dec. 10, at 2, 4, and 7 p.m. Tickets available at the screening site.

DAHIL SA INYONG PAGTANGKILIK AT PAGTITIWALA, WALANG PATID ANG TAGUMPAY NA PATULOY NATING NAKAKAMIT

OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS

AGB PHILS.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.*
GMA	18.0	18.8	19.3
ABS-CBN	15.6	14.0	13.8

*Nov 28-30 data are based on overnight ratings.

NIELSEN MEDIA PHILS.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.**
GMA	14.8	15.8	15.5
ABS-CBN	11.4	10.9	10.7

**Latest available data until Nov. 27 only.

NOVEMBER* 2004 DAYPART RATINGS

MORNING (6am-12nn)	Nielsen Media	AGB Phils.
GMA	9	11
ABS-CBN	7	8

AFTERNOON (12nn-6pm)	Nielsen Media	AGB Phils.
GMA	16	20
ABS-CBN	10	13

EVENING (6pm-12mn)	Nielsen Media	AGB Phils.
GMA	21	27
ABS-CBN	15	20

*Latest available Nielsen Media data until Nov. 27 only; Nov 28-30 AGB Phils. data based on overnight ratings.

TOP 20 PROGRAMS (November* 2004)

Mega Manila TV Households

Nielsen Media Phils.

17 OUT OF THE TOP 20 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA

Rank	Program	Channel	Rating (%)
1	MULAWIN	GMA	28.7
2	EXTRA CHALLENGE (Mon-Fri)	GMA	27.5
3	EAT BULAGA! SILVER SPECIAL	GMA	27.3
4	BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS	GMA	25.1
5	EXTRA CHALLENGE (Sat)	GMA	25.1
6	24 ORAS	GMA	24.5
7	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA	24.5
8	SLAMDUNK	GMA	23.9
9	STARSTRUCK	GMA	23.0
10	EAT... BULAGA! (Sat)	GMA	21.9
11	MARINA	ABS-CBN	21.6
12	NAKSI	GMA	20.7
13	MEL & JOEY	GMA	20.5
14	FOREVER IN MY HEART	GMA	20.3
15	KAPUSO MO JESSICA SOHO	GMA	20.3
16	IT MIGHT BE YOU	ABS-CBN	19.5
17	ALL STAR KI	GMA	19.5
18	KRYSTALA	ABS-CBN	19.4
19	EAT... BULAGA! (Mon-Fri)	GMA	19.4
20	RUNE SOLDIER	GMA	19.4

*Latest available data until Nov 27 only.

AGB Phils.

15 OUT OF THE TOP 20 PROGRAMS ARE ON GMA

Rank	Program Name	Channel	Rating (%)
1	MULAWIN	GMA	36.5
2	EXTRA CHALLENGE	GMA	35.5
3	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA	32.0
4	24 ORAS	GMA	31.3
5	MARINA	ABS-CBN	30.6
6	BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEOS	GMA	30.0
7	SLAM DUNK	GMA	29.0
8	STARSTRUCK	GMA	28.8
9	IT MIGHT BE YOU	ABS-CBN	28.3
10	HIRAM	ABS-CBN	27.5
11	LOVERS IN PARIS	ABS-CBN	27.4
12	KAPUSO MO JESSICA SOHO	GMA	26.9
13	KRYSTALA	ABS-CBN	26.9
14	ALL STAR KI	GMA	26.8
15	EAT BULAGA	GMA	25.8
16	IRENE	GMA	25.6
17	MEL & JOEY	GMA	25.4
18	FOREVER IN MY HEART	GMA	24.6
19	PINOY POP SUPERSTAR	GMA	24.6
20	MAGPAKAILANMAN	GMA	23.3

*Nov 28-30 data are based on overnight ratings.

Kapuso,
No. 1 tayo
GMA

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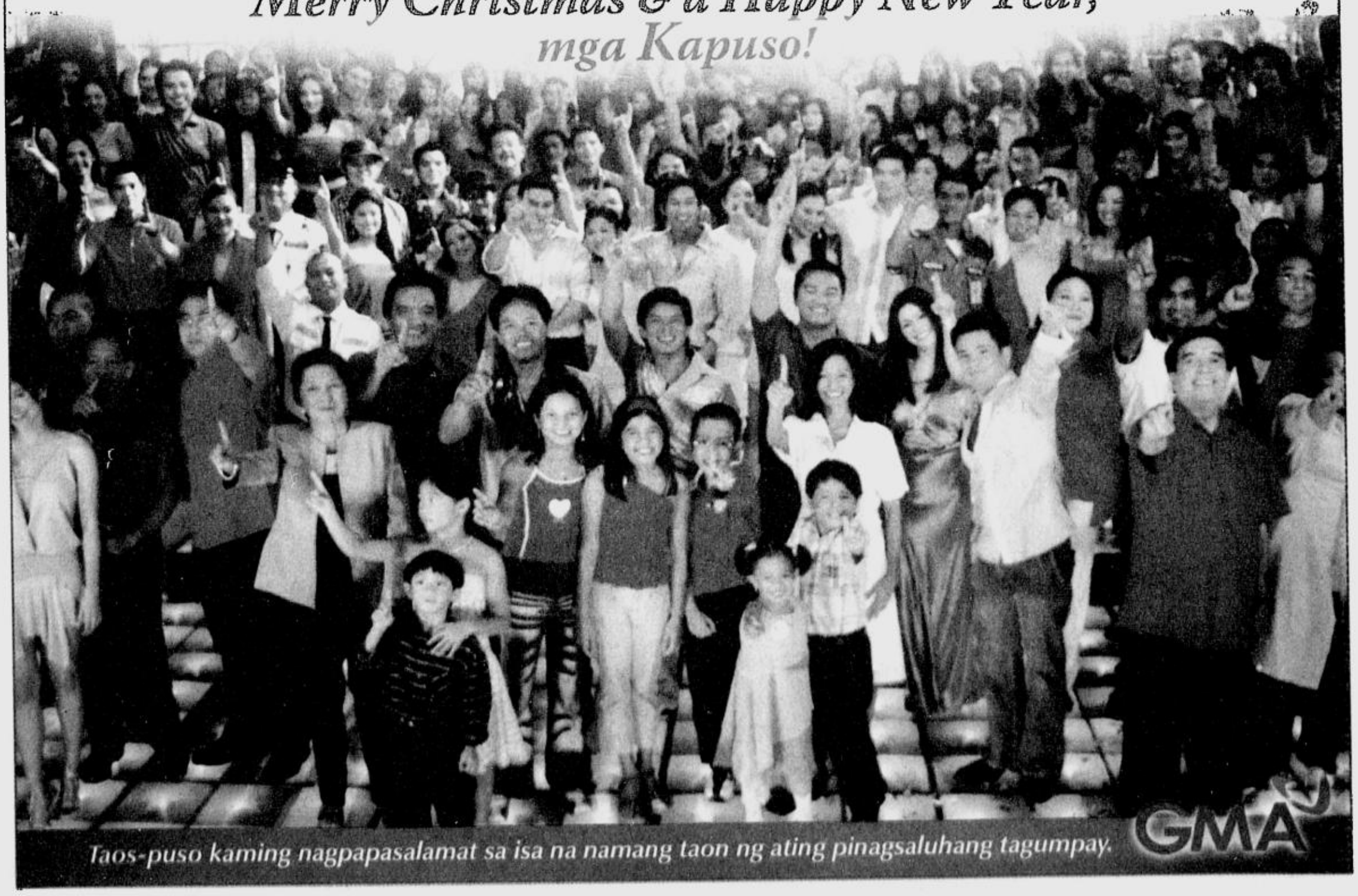

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Sunday BIZ

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Farm boy moves on to build half of Makati

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ONE of the earliest memories of construction magnate David M. Consunji is of waiting with his mother at a public market for the person who dropped the 50-centavo coin that his mother found.

They waited for hours, as his mother refused to leave until she returned the coin to the rightful owner.

Honesty, his mother always said, was the best policy.

It was a lesson the 83-year-old Consunji never forgot, and it provided the strong foundation upon which construction giant DM Consunji Inc., which is celebrating its 50th year in the business, was built on.

Not a small feat for this native of Bataan who first aspired to be a farmer.

Consunji says in an interview that the blood of farmers runs through his veins and that he has always worked the land, since he spent his first 11 years in his father's town of Hermosa.

Earning at 10

He was in charge of accompanying his mother to market and he would regularly tag along with his siblings who accompanied their father to the farm.

It was at a farm where Consunji first built a successful business from his small poultry of 70-80 chickens in 1931.

Consunji sold about two to three dozen eggs a day at about 1-2 centavos each, making him earn quite a fortune at just 10 years old.

That experience encouraged him enough to ask his father to allow him to take up agriculture at the UP Los Baños, where his father graduated.

"I really wanted to take up agriculture but my father dissuaded me. He said that one idiot in the family was enough. It was my older brother who asked me to consider engineering, since he was also taking up engineering at UP. I heeded his advice," Consunji says.

It slowly dawned on the reluctant engineer that construction was his destiny and he persevered in his studies, which was interrupted by World War II.

But the importance of what he was about to do did not really hit him until 1948 when he was asked to design and build the four-story multipurpose building of the Marcelo Rubber Co. in Pandacan, Manila, for P500 a month.

He was excited but apprehensive at the same time. He bought his first slide rule and reviewed his structural and design plans like never before.

He reviewed them again when he was done.

When he finally put his signature on the plans, he supervised the construction and put everything that he learned about mixing concrete into the building—right down to the pouring of the last pound of concrete.

Even when it was done after 10 months and everybody assured him that he did a good job, he was still nervous. So nervous that he would visit the building once a month for two years just to make sure it was still standing.

Becoming a builder

Consunji says that the Marcelo Rubber Plant building was the beginning and the end of his designing career.

FIRST JOB

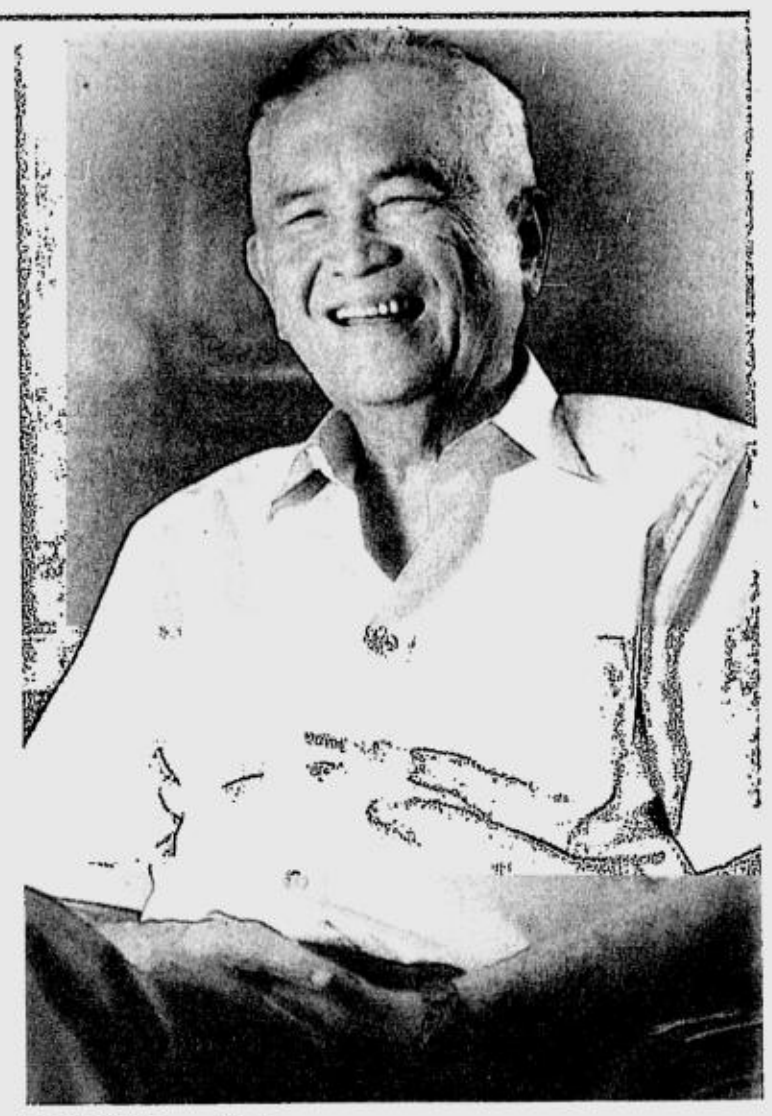
To be a builder was his destiny, perhaps because it appealed to his farmer's heart, which relished literally getting his hands dirty and working close to the land.

By 1950, he was a husband, a father to a growing brood and the owner of his own company. He started doing construction jobs and did everything himself. He was the driver, engineer, foreman and even a handyman.

But each job taught him a little bit more about the world of construction. Contracts became more complex and challenging and by 1954, DMCI was born.

One of the first orders of the day for the fledgling company was to set out its vision and mission. He knew what he wanted his company to stand for, and he made sure that all the existing and future employees would know it too.

CONSUNJI during his high school days



DAVID M. Consunji today

CONSUNJI during a trip to China

Construction, Consunji says, is a noble profession and its activities are vital to economic development and national progress.

His company's role as a contractor is to give its best to the client in faithful compliance to the contract, and that ill-gotten wealth violates business ethics and wreaks havoc on the public good.

"It is easy to make money in construction, but it is hard to make a name in this business," Consunji says.

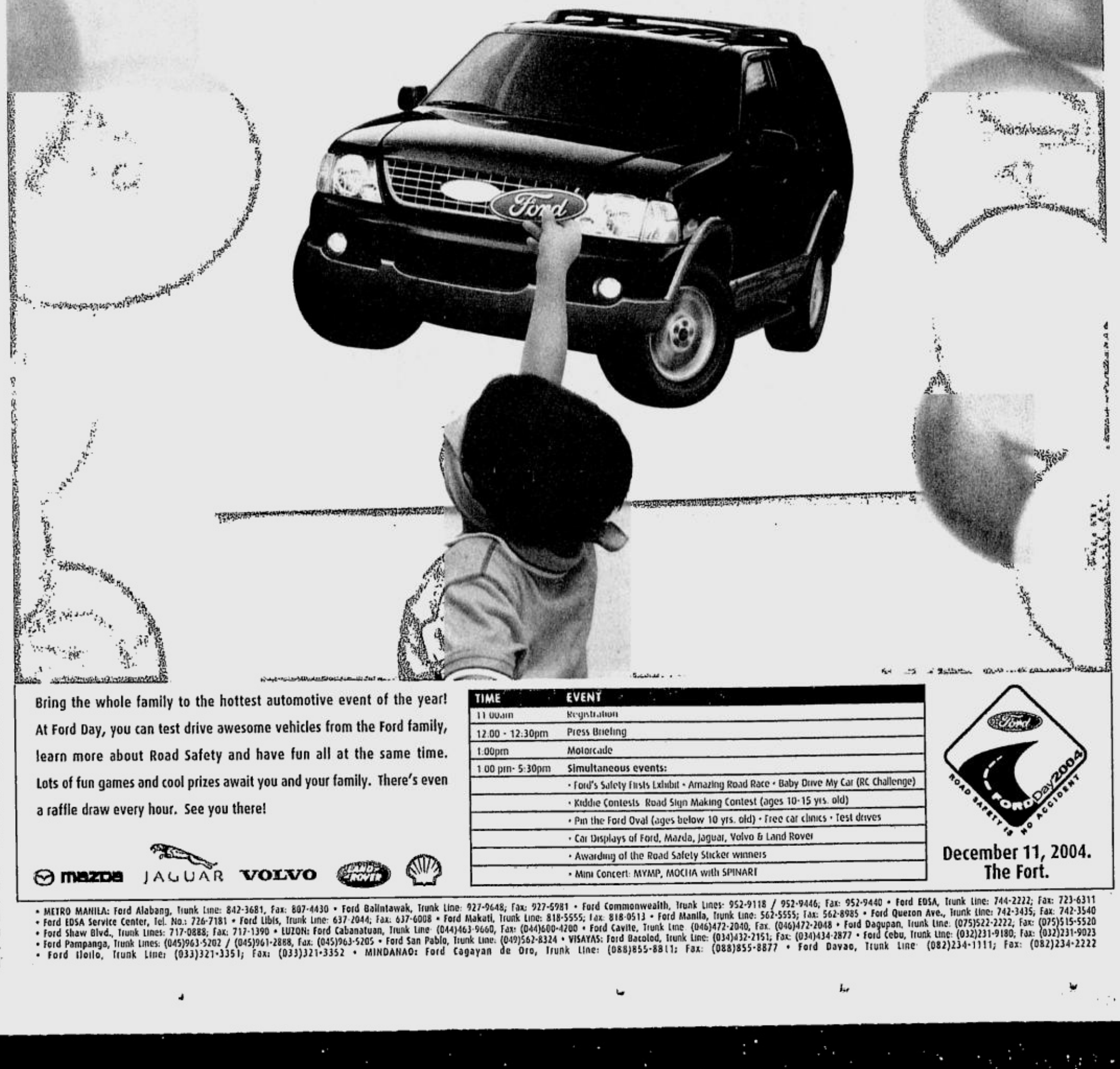
He chose the harder route and challenged himself to build a name in the business right from his first project, which was the Manila Doctor's Hospital in 1954, followed by the UP Chapel in 1955 which has become a landmark in construction due to its use of heavy concrete.

In 1958, DMCI put up its first building in Makati, the Monterey building which was demolished to put up today's Pacific Star at the corner of Makati Paseo de

BUILDER/ B2

Ford No Boundaries

COME TO THE FORD DAY. WHERE ROAD SAFETY IS MADE FUN.



Bring the whole family to the hottest automotive event of the year! At Ford Day, you can test drive awesome vehicles from the Ford family, learn more about Road Safety and have fun all at the same time. Lots of fun games and cool prizes await you and your family. There's even a raffle draw every hour. See you there!

TIME	EVENT
11:00am	Registration
12:00 - 12:30pm	Press Briefing
1:00pm	Motorcade
1:00 pm- 5:30pm	Simultaneous events:
	• Ford's Safety Firsts Exhibit • Amazing Road Race • Baby Drive My Car (RC Challenge)
	• Kiddie Contests Road Sign Making Contest (ages 10-15 yrs. old)
	• Pin the Ford Oval (ages below 10 yrs. old) • Free car clinics • Test drives
	• Car Displays of Ford, Mazda, Jaguar, Volvo & Land Rover
	• Awarding of the Road Safety Sticker winners
	• Mini Concert: MYMP, MOCHA with SPINART

Ford FORD Day 2004 ROAD SAFETY IS NO ACCIDENT

December 11, 2004. The Fort.

mazda JAGUAR VOLVO

• METRO MANILA: Ford Alabang, Trunk Line: 842-3681, Fax: 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line: 927-9648; Fax: 927-6981 • Ford Commonwealth, Trunk Lines: 952-9118 / 952-9446; Fax: 952-9440 • Ford EDSA, Trunk Line: 744-2222; Fax: 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center, Tel. No.: 726-7181 • Ford Libis, Trunk Line: 637-2044; Fax: 637-6008 • Ford Makati, Trunk Line: 818-5555; Fax: 818-0513 • Ford Manila, Trunk Line: 562-5555; Fax: 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Ave., Trunk Line: 742-3435; Fax: 742-3540 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Lines: 717-0888; Fax: 717-1390 • LUZON: Ford Cabanatuan, Trunk Line: (044)463-9660, Fax: (044)600-4200 • Ford Cavite, Trunk Line: (046)472-2040, Fax: (046)472-2048 • Ford Dagupan, Trunk Line: (075)522-2222; Fax: (075)515-5520 • Ford Pampanga, Trunk Lines: (045)963-5202 / (045)961-2888, Fax: (045)963-5205 • Ford San Pablo, Trunk Line: (049)562-8324 • VISAYAS: Ford Bacolod, Trunk Line: (034)432-2151; Fax: (034)434-2877 • Ford Cebu, Trunk Line: (032)231-9180; Fax: (032)231-9023 • Ford Iloilo, Trunk Line: (033)321-3351; Fax: (033)321-3352 • MINDANAO: Ford Cagayan de Oro, Trunk Line: (088)855-8811; Fax: (088)855-8877 • Ford Davao, Trunk Line: (082)234-1111; Fax: (082)234-2222

Helping people live their lives well

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

"WE'LL help you live your best life."

This is what General Nutrition Center (GNC) Live Well promises its market, and that is exactly what many people—those fully aware of the threats posed to their health by the pressures of a tough, fast-paced environment—want to hear.

People know that with their lifestyles—the late nights out, the hastily cooked or take-out food they eat, the stress in the workplace—and the unclean surroundings they are exposed to, they would need something short of a miracle to avoid various ailments and live a healthy life longer.

GNC Live Well does not offer drugs or cure to any ailment. It, instead, makes available an array of dietary and health food supplements that provide the nutrients that may be lacking in the food people eat today or those that people lose fast with the pressures they have to go through daily.

There are vitamins and minerals for men, women, kids and teens; herbal food supplements for various purposes; dietary and weight management products; sports nutrition, and platinum formula for the seniors.

The store sells, for instance, antioxidants that protect one from radical damages from environmental toxins, intense sunlight and smoking. There is whey protein that supplies glutamine and branched chain amino acids to athletes since prolonged high-intensity exercise decreases their glutamine levels. For working women, there is a dietary supplement that contains calcium, folic acid and vitamin D. For men, GNC offers a premium multivitamin and mineral supplement that promotes normal prostate function, helps treat various sexual dysfunction, strengthens the immune system, enhances mental function, and supports a healthy cardiovascular system.

Health conscious

These food supplements are fast becoming a necessity, says 34-year-old Jose Vito Luis 'JV' Borromeo, vice president for operations of Healthy You, the exclusive franchisee in the Philippines of GNC Live Well of the US.

In many countries, says Borromeo, such food supplements are now part of the people's daily intake.

The global market for these products was estimated at about $128 billion in 1999.

The Philippine market may not be as mature as the developed countries are when it comes to food supplements but, JV says, "we are getting there."

With the speed information is being passed around by the Internet and the higher level of education people are getting now, it has become less difficult for GNC and the other health food stores to reach out to the market.

More and more Filipinos are beginning to realize it is far better to invest in their health now than spend for hospitalization later. They want to enjoy the rest of their lives walking around, free of medication. Thus, despite their tight schedules and finances, a growing number of them take time out and shell out part of their budget for sports and health food supplements.

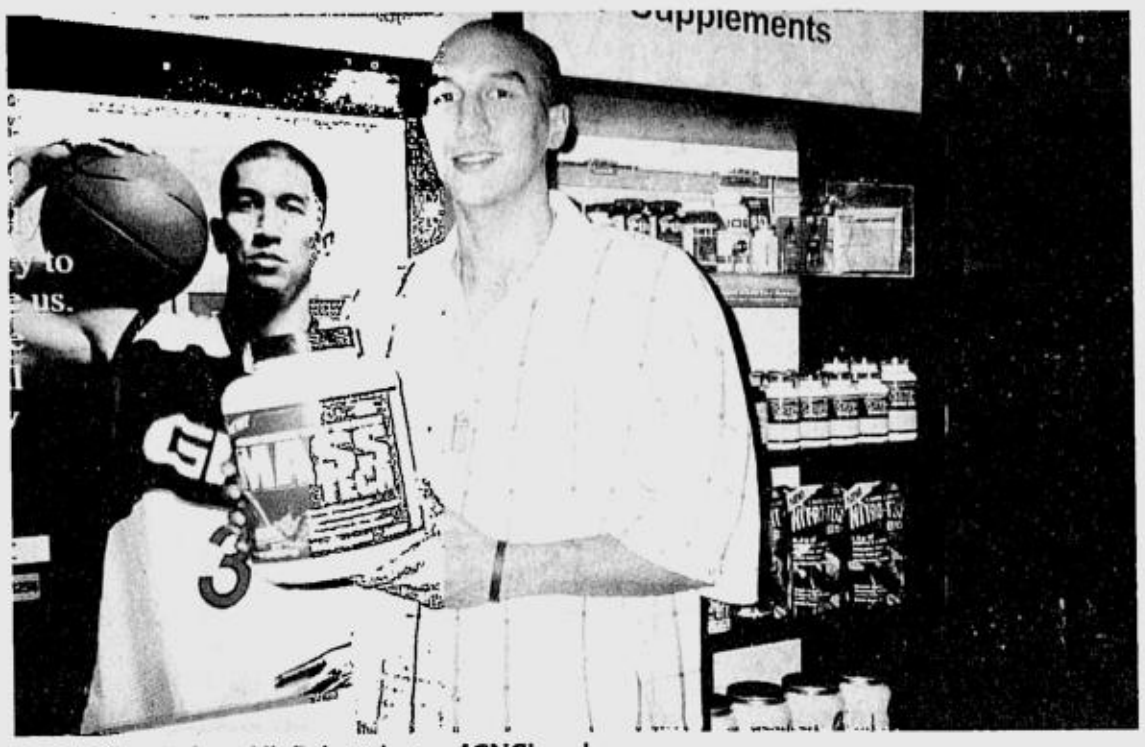
Getting into the business

The Borromeos have been in the health food business since 1980, but it was only in 1994 when Healthy You got the franchise of GNC Live Well, the world's largest chain of health food stores.

It was JV's parents, company CEO Jose Vito and president Mary Anne, who built Healthy You, but it was the mother who started it all. JV said his mother, who has been health conscious all her life, used to buy food supplements whenever she traveled abroad. Her friends used to ask her to buy some stuff for them and that gave her the idea to put up a store and sell these goods in the local market. Initially, her clients were mainly the health-conscious housewives.

The business for the Borromeos was good even during the start-up years but their best years so far were during the time of the Ramos administration.

"The economy then was good, so people had more money to spare and the market really grew substantially. Consumers became more sophisticated as education got better and information spread faster through the Internet enabling people to know and appreciate the importance of these health food supplements," JV said.



BASKETBALL player Nic Belasco is one of GNC's endorsers

JV BORROMEO at the entrance of GNC at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell.

It was at that time when, JV says, the business was growing by 20-30 percent yearly.

The growing popularity of health food and dietary supplements in the country can be best shown by the steady growth in the sales and number of GNC Live Well outlets in the country, as well as the mushrooming of other health food supplement shops.

The Borromeos had six Healthy You outlets carrying all kinds of health foods—vitamins, minerals, brown rice and various kinds of organic products—in 1994 when it decided to focus on health food supplements and became GNC Live Well's sole franchisee in the country.

Growing sales

GNC Live Well in the Philippines just turned 10 years old last October. It now has 50 stores nationwide, mostly in Luzon particularly Metro Manila. It has seven outlets in Visayas and Mindanao. It has been opening four to five outlets yearly.

Its current market in the Philippines is composed largely of health-conscious moderately to highly educated working people, particularly those who are fitness and sports oriented. JV says the age group is 25 years old up. These are the people who believe that certain foods have health benefits that go beyond basic nutrition and may reduce the risk of disease or other health concerns.

Although the economy has not been doing well lately, JV says GNC continues to enjoy steady sales growth.

"Despite the difficult times, people have not given up their food supplements yet. Or maybe it is during the hard times when people invest more in their health knowing that getting sick can be much more costly," he says.

The Borromeos' health food stores came to be known in the market initially by word of mouth. When it became a GNC franchisee, it started to enjoy international PR (public relations) but this was deemed not enough by the Borromeos.

"It is not difficult to sell our products since they carry an international brand," JV says. Despite this, Healthy You still opted to adopt a marketing tack that aims to further reach out to its market.

GNC Live Well provides education on health food supplements within the stores. Its sales personnel guide the clients on selecting the best products that can help them meet their desired results. It maintains a hotline (721-4462) attended by doctors who provide answers to queries on GNC products.

"We are also interactive," JV adds.

Last year, GNC Live Well also started its sports marketing strategy. It tapped two popular basketball players who, it believes, live up to the clean and healthy image of the company—Ali Peek who just transferred to Coca-Cola and Nic Belasco of San Miguel—to promote the products.

Sports marketing

The two were personally handpicked by JV who did a thorough background check on them before taking them in.

"We were together in the gym. I observed their lifestyles, how they care for their bodies and that was when I came to learn that they take GNC products, particularly the high-protein kinds. They really are GNC patrons long before we took them in," JV says.

JV says the move to tap the two athletes aims to show the Filipino youth that "by keeping a good diet, taking in food supplements and exercising regularly, you are on your way to your goals."

"Some people used to think that food supplements are only for body builders. We are now trying to tell them, they are for everybody."

Peek and Belasco help GNC interact with the market. "They answer e-mails, they visit the outlets in the malls to meet and talk to our clients."

The information the local franchisee share with the Filipino market are those coming straight from GNC Live Well of the US, backed up by clinical studies and researches.

"We do not make any claims. What you see in our labels are what you'll get. We are neither a food store nor a drug store. We are the purveyor of a third classification, which is food supplement. We just guide the buyers on what they might need depending on their desired outcome," says Borromeo.

The Borromeos are very particular on the quality of their products. They keep fresh inventory all the time. "We don't sell products whose expiry date is less than nine months from date of sale. We keep an inventory level good for only one month to make sure that our stocks are new."

"We do not make any claim. What you see in the labels is what you get and we make sure that our customers will get only the best," JV says.

Builder of half of Makati learned from a farm

From page B1

Roxas and Gil Puyat Avenue.

In the next 50 years, DMCI put up almost half of the buildings in the Makati central business district and its biggest project was the construction of the palace of the Sultan of Brunei.

The fact that the buildings still stand today and are in good structural condition are proof enough that DMCI did a good job, he says.

It was a long and fruitful career for DMCI and Consunji, who once served as Secretary of Public Works and Highways under the late President Ferdinand Marcos, and named Management Man of the Year by the Management Association of the Philippines.

Best teachers

Consunji says he and his company became what they are today because he learned from the best teachers.

From his parents, his aunt and his uncles, he learned about putting in an honest day's work, loving work with one's own hands even if it means getting dirt under his fingernails.

Dean Vidal A. Tan of the UP College of Engineering, on the other hand, was a tough and strict hydraulics and mechanics teacher who challenged him and his classmates to learn more than just the science of engineering.

Tan taught him about using his knowledge to help others, saying that being the best UP graduate of engineering meant nothing if his work did not do anything to improve the lives of fellow Filipinos.

Another influential figure was his structural engineering teacher, Alfredo Juinio, who instilled in him the basic principles of engineering that would serve him well in his career in construction. They ended up working together on many of DMCI's projects.

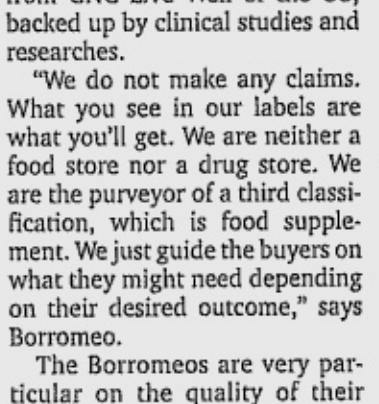
"From my teachers and actual work I learned how to look beyond the basics and look for ways to improve the way things are done. I also think of ways to bring down the cost through a concept called value engineering. I guess we were the first to think of it and it helped us bring down our cost and win the bids for big projects," Consunji says.

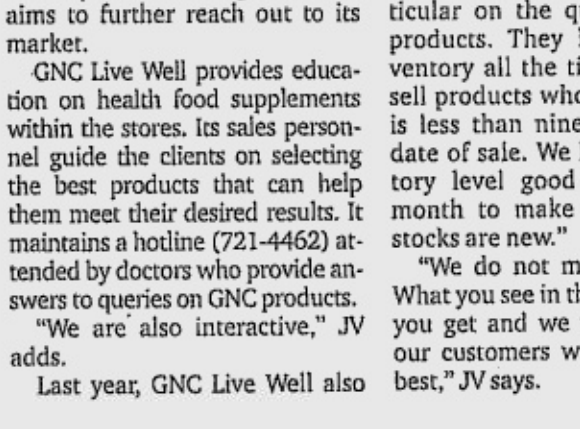
He says he hopes DMCI would continue to live by these values as he transfers the reins of the company to his children, led by eldest son Isidro who is also a civil engineering graduate of UP.

"I would say that we have built a tradition of providing quality construction work and doing the best for our clients. We also have this bad habit of finishing all our projects on time and on budget. This has led to some problems for us, but we remain true to our principles," Consunji says.

These old-fashioned principles, he says, that were first learned in the farmlands of Bataan would surely bring DMCI continued success in at least the next 50 years.

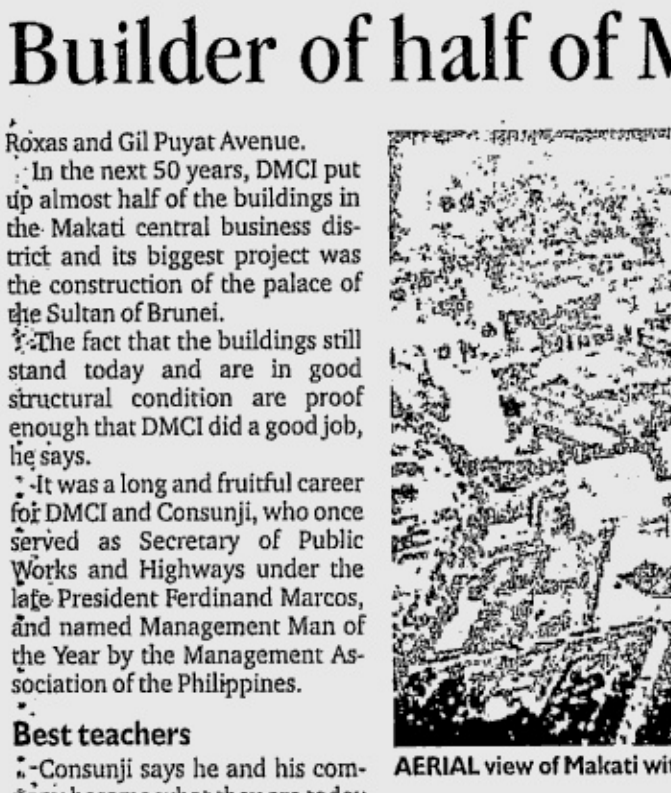
AERIAL view of Makati with dots, representing DMCI's buildings.





DAVID with Fredy, his wife of over 50 years.

THE CONSUNJI siblings



CONSUNJI receives a honorary degree from UP.

CONSUNJI takes his oath as DPWH Secretary

DAVID with his grade school classmates

Online booking site helps hotel agents earn more

TO ENHANCE revenue generation opportunities for travel intermediaries, Galileo International, a leading global distribution services (GDS) company and part of Cendant Corp.'s Travel Distribution Services Division (TDS), is launching a new, no-cost online hotel booking site, Galileo HotelClub. Aimed initially at Galileo agents in Singapore, Hong Kong, Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan, China, Australia and New Zealand, it will provide access to rates for over 9,500 hotels in 47 countries at discounted prices.

While various online hotel booking exists, aimed predominately at consumers, Galileo HotelClub is targeted specifically at the travel agent community. Many agents are reluctant to book hotels online for their customers because there is no control over commission rates and there can be delays in receiving commissions.

Mark Rizzuto, managing director of Galileo Asia says, "HotelClub is the outright winner in the online hotel booking world. We are delighted to offer our customers the benefits of this superior content integrated into the efficiency of Asia's fastest growing GDS."

A key feature of the new site will be the ability for travel agents to have full control over the revenue they earn by enabling them to set the commission rate themselves, while ensuring they receive payment for all hotel bookings in a timely manner.

This will allow our customers to generate additional revenue on their hotel bookings while remaining competitive, as well as removing the burden of chasing each hotel for payment. Rizzuto explains, "In the ever competitive travel industry, this is an exceptional feature of Galileo HotelClub. No other system allows agents the flexibility of setting commissions on an overall or case by case basis. And importantly, it allows the hotel booking to be pulled into one consolidated itinerary, which makes management of the booking much easier."

Galileo HotelClub is currently available in seven languages and can be accessed by visiting www.galileo.com/hotelclub.

Credit card with '4-gives' payment scheme launched

EQUITABLE CardNetowrk Inc., the largest credit card firm, with JCB International recently launched the Equitable EasyPay JCB Credit Card, a credit card with a unique "4-gives" payment scheme designed for the middle-income market.

The Equitable EasyPay JCPB Credit Card combines the affordability and payment flexibility of local cards and the recognition of international card networks. It offers an easier membership requirement of P5,000 minimum monthly salary and comes with an assurance of customer service and access to the brand of Equitable and JCB.

EasyPay provides a significant advantages compared to other local cards, especially with the new four-gives payment convenience. The cards is widely accepted in numerous accredited establishments nationwide to give its members greater spending options.

The Equitable EasyPay JCB Credit Card is aimed at assisting its target market consisting of middle-income consumers, ranging from students, blue collar workers to mid-level executives.

Mall owners are tenants, too

THE ROBINSONS chair of malls is one of the bigger landlord of retailers in the country.

But as they built more malls throughout the country, the group also became tenants in malls not owned by the group.

The Robinsons Store (RDS) and Handyman Do it Best Home Center (Handyman) recently opened adjoining stores at the Festival Supermall in Alabang.

This is the seventh RDS not in a a Robinsons mall.

Robina Gokongwei Pe stated this strategy is simply to side the reach of RDS.

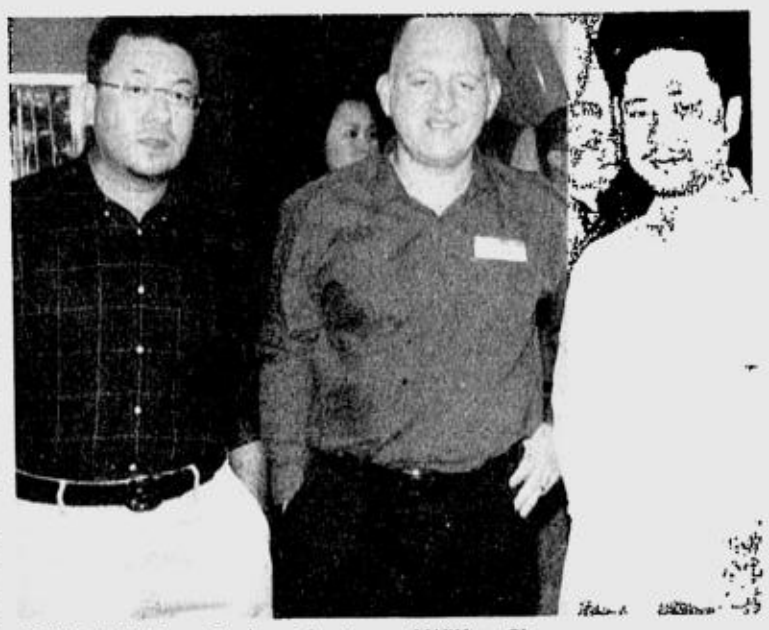
Six others are located at three Waltermarts, one in Tutuban Center and two in Star Malls.

The new one combines its two concepts. The entrance from RDS' Home Lines at the 3rd Level leads to Handyman.

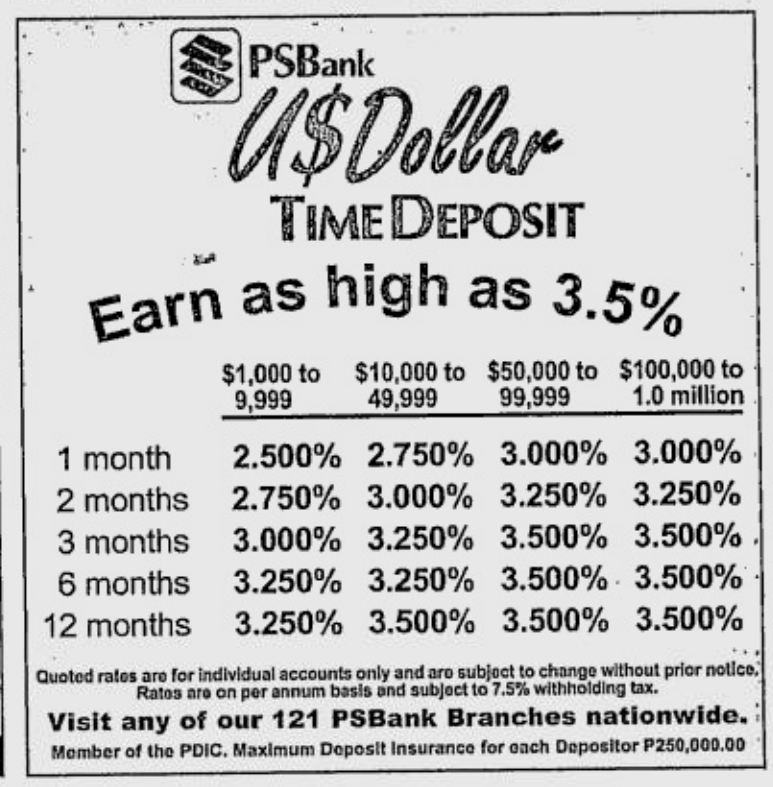
"The layout makes it easy for our customers to navigate between the two stores. It is very customer-friendly," says RDS general manager Graham Coates. Because of this synergy, they are confident of a promising customer and sales traffic.

Officers of RDS, Handyman and Festival Supermall were present during the opening party. Speaking on behalf of the mall, Josephine Yap, executive vice president, said that "Festival Supermall is now complete with the entry of RDS and Handyman." Robina Gokongwei-Pe, SVP and group general manager of RDS thanked the Festival Supermall's management, concessionaires and suppliers for their continuing support.

Seen during the opening bash were Handyman's Willy Co, Jarvis Chua of Panama Plastic Products Inc, Eric Lim (Everything Retail Industrial Commercial Corp.), Jaime Go of Cofta Moulding Corp. and Bob Plank (Do It Best Consultant); Authentic American Apparel's Wilfred Sy, L'Oreal Philippines' David Ennes, Design Garment's Dina Siy, BonBon Merchandise Sales' Lydia Secosana, Tri-Union International's Antonio How, Town and Country's Mohan Dadlani, Mark Mason, the International Director of Zebra Designs UK and Graham Coates, RDS' general manager; Festival Mall's senior marketing manager, Marivic Arugay and marketing communication manager Cynthia Esteban.



ANTONIO How, Graham Coates and Wilfrey Siy



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Help typhoon victims through Globe's Txt2Donate

THE RECENT spell of super typhoons has brought about massive destruction and desolation to a country preparing to celebrate the joyous holiday season. In the spirit of goodwill and solidarity, Globe Handyphone has heeded Philippine National Red Cross chair and Sen. Richard Gordon's plea to support the PNRC donation drive for the victims of typhoons Winnie and Yoyong by accepting donations via text message or G-Cash.

Globe Txt2Donate enables Globe Prepaid and Plan, as well as Touch Mobile subscribers to make contributions in denominations of P5, P25, P50, or P100 to the Red Cross typhoon fund. Initiated Friday, Dec. 3, the mobile fund drive has generated overwhelming support from Globe and Touch Mobile subscribers. Interested parties may continue to make donations by sending "RED<space><amount>" to 2899. The pledged amount plus a P1 transaction fee will be deducted from the donor's prepaid balance, or charged to the next billing statement for Plan subscribers.

Subscribers may also make G-Cash contributions in any amount. They need only send "<amount><space><MPIN>" to 28829178REDCRS or 28829178733277. All proceeds will go to Red Cross relief programs for typhoon victims in the towns of Infanta, Real, and General Nakar in Quezon.

"By all accounts, the outpouring of support is unprecendented," said Gordon, upon learning of the texters' swift response. "It is a testament to goodness itself and the generosity of the Globe community."

MEDICAL MISSION IN MUSLIM COMMUNITY

The Public Affairs Service (AFPRescom) recently conducted a medical, dental, optical, deworming and milk-feeding operation, including distribution of electric toothbrushes and nutritional products, in the Muslim community of North Fairview, Quezon City. A total of 1540 patients benefited from the mission. Shown are Col. Andrew Nocon, PAF Deputy Commander of PAS and Col. Jesus G. Cabarrus, PAF Commander of PAS with patients.

Product development program on for RP furniture makers

THE CHAMBER of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) has begun its design and product development program that will upgrade the manufacturing capabilities of local furniture makers and enable them to meet the specific requirements of the global market.

For this month, the CFIP program starts with Design Trends and Color Forecast Seminar on Dec. 6 and 7 in Manila, and Dec. 8 and 9 in Pampanga, and Design Consultancy on Dec. 13 to 17 in both venues, where Concept Generation, Finalization and Prototype Development will be conducted on Jan. 6 to Feb. 17 and a product launch on Feb. 28.

Earlier, orientation seminars and materials development projects were held in Manila, Pampanga and Iloilo.

Being implemented in collaboration with the Product Development and Design Center of the Philippines and the Private Enterprise Accelerating Resource Linkage Project II, the CFIP program specifically caters to the exhibitors of the Philippine International Furniture Show (PIFS) 2005, which will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila and the Philippine Trade Training Center from Feb. 28 to March 3.

Expected to swamp the PIFS 2005 are foreign buyers from all over the world, including those from Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Australia, the United States, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand, among others.

More information on PIFS 2005 can be obtained from the CFIP (631-2834, 632-9007, fax 631-2977, or e-mail info@cfipnet.com, www.pifshow.com).

PIFS is one of the furniture industry's best marketing tools, where local sellers and foreign buyers meet face to face and establish a lasting business relationship.

NOYPI SUPPORTS THE FILIPINO YOUTH

The latest craze in prepaid Internet card, Noypi, will visit your schools. Be the first 100 students to sign up when Noypi visits your school and get a free Noypi trial card. This card will entitle you for an hour of Noypi experience to chat, surf and do anything in the Web-all for free. The Noypi School Tour has been to Ateneo, St. Paul Quezon City, San Beda, UE, PSBA, Lyceum, Roosevelt Cainta and La Salle Greenhills, San Sebastian, PCU, La Consolacion, UPD, Aquinas and SJC. If you want Noypi to visit your school, call 687-3333 local 206.

FDA approves use of orlistat among adolescents

THE ONLY prescription weight-loss medication for the management of obesity in adults can now be used by obese adolescents.

The US Food and Drug Administration have approved labeling for use of orlistat in the management of obese adolescents ages 12 to 16 years. This is the first approval of its kind for a prescription weight-loss treatment.

The approval followed the results of a clinical study, which showed patients, aged 12 to 16 years, taking orlistat along with reduced-calorie diet had a significantly reduced BMI compared with patients having the same diet and placebo. A five-percent reduction in body mass index (BMI) was achieved by 27 percent of patients taking orlistat plus diet compared with 16 percent of patients who do not take the drug.

"This is very good news for adolescents struggling with overweight and obesity" says Dr. Marc Jacobson, director of the Center for Atherosclerosis Prevention in the division of adolescent medicine at Scheider Children's Hospital of North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System.

Overweight and obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. Currently, about 15 percent of adolescents in the United States are obese and 30 percent are overweight. A study done by the Philippine Heart Association and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute reported that in the Philippines, incidence of malnutrition in children has decreased, while overweight cases increased between 1998 and 2003.

Aside from the genetic factor, poor dietary habits and physical inactivity have been clearly identified as causes to the burgeoning problem of overweight and obesity.

Studies have shown that children and teenagers who are obese are at higher risk of developing cardiovascular illnesses in their 30s and 40s. Associated cardiovascular risk factors of obesity are hypertension, dyslipidemia and type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Jacobson advises that parents consult physician once they suspect that their child may be overweight or obese. "Combining diet, exercise and changes in lifestyle habits with medication can help seriously overweight adolescents manage their weight and reduce their risk of serious health problems."

With the approval of the use of orlistat on obese adolescents can be a great help for teen-agers who have to contend with their weight problem. Orlistat is the only weight-loss medication that works locally in the gut to prevent dietary fat absorption by around 30 percent.

Orlistat is an effective therapy that not only helps patients lose weight, but also helps maintain their weight loss. Since it was first marketed in 1998, there have been more than 16.7 million patient treatments with Xenical worldwide. Xenical is approved for weight management in over 140 countries around the world.

MAGSAYSAY VISITS POMDA BOOTH

During the recently concluded Total Office Products and Services Show (The TOPS Show)-2nd International Office IT, Communication Facilities, Furniture, Equipment, Products, Accessories and Services Exhibition held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr visited the booth of the prestigious Philippine Office Machine Distributors Association (Pomda), the co-organizer of the event. Shown during the awarding ceremony were, from left, Mariano Ang, director of Pomda and president of Microdata, Marieta Santos Mesa, Pomda vice president and VP of Business Machines Corp, Magsaysay and Miguel Ripoll, president of Pomda and president of City Office Machines. For more information about the TOPS Show '05 and Corporate Gifts Expo '05 (June 2 to 5), call Liza Mara, project director of Global-Link Marketing and Management Services, the organizer of the exhibit and conference, at 750-8588, 887-1304, fax 750-8585, or e-mail liza@globallinkph.com. The TOPS Show attracted 171 exhibitors representing products and services from 15 countries and occupied 5,500 sqm of exhibition space. There were 8,351 trade buyers that graced the event in four days.

Clips

MHS '51 party

THE MEMBERS of the Mapa High School Class '51 will hold their Christmas party today, Dec. 5. With a "Pista sa Nayon" motif, the party will be held at the Barrio Fiesta restaurant in Edsa Greenhills, San Juan. Starting with a Holy Mass at 5 p.m., the party is expected to last until midnight. Children of MHS Class '51 members who read or hear this announcement are requested to remind their parents about their annual get-together. MHS Class '51 was the last class under the principalship of the American "Thomasite" teacher Sarah M. England. For other details, call Quirino Morales at 716-8030 or Evangeline Navarro at 724-4718.

Skills that earn a living

INSTEAD of looking for a job, why not learn a skill and be at your own? You can be a successful entrepreneur. If already employed, practicing the skill means extra income. A series of seminars on different skills is being conducted by ALPs Training Center. The seminars are held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Rotary Center, Roces Avenue corner Mother Ignacia Street, Quezon City. Today, Dec. 5, the seminar is on Giftwrapping with Style; Mold Making (any item for molding using silicon rubber); and Shiatsu Massage. On Saturday, Dec. 11: Meat Processing (pork ham, *tocino*, and others); Candle Making (traditional candles and others); Facial Treatment; and Native Kakanin (*puto*, *kutsinta*, etc). For these and other upcoming seminars, call ALPs at 900-7876, 0919-8237159 or 0910-3745519.

'Oedipus, the King'

WINGS Entertainment, in cooperation with Tribo, presents Sophocles' "Oedipus, the King", with performances scheduled on Dec. 5, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Paco Catholic Auditorium, Paco, Manila. "Oedipus, the King", is one of the most enduring classical Greek tragedies that talks about the tale of a young nobleman, who because of a wicked prophesy, is set to live a doomed life. Wings Entertainment is a production and talent house headed by Francis Villacorta. The production house aims to bring the public entertaining and educational presentations. For ticket inquiries, call 524-8454 or 0918-9237513 and look for Francis Villacorta.

Fiesta World Mall at 7

FIESTA World Mall-Lipa celebrates its 7th anniversary with a big bang on Dec. 5. Despite the current economic problem, Fiesta Mall continues its operation in one of the most progressive cities in the south and has lined up several big events for the anniversary celebration. Fiesta World Mall also holds the formal launch of the Fiesta Serbisyong Bayan Center where several local government agencies will be housed. The highlight of the big celebration today is a kiddie fashion show, mini-concert of Fiesta Mall Talents and surprise celebrity guests. Fiesta World Mall will be giving free eye checkups and reading eyeglasses to all Lipenos as a sign of gratitude for their endless support. Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos-Recto and the Fiesta World Mall official mascot Bibo Batangueno will grace the momentous event.

'May Day Eve', 'Super Manok'

GANTIMPALA Theater Foundation (GTF) caps its 27th season with a twin-bill presentation of "May Day Eve" and "Super Manok", two new theater productions adapted from short stories written by National Artists for Literature Nick Joaquin and Alejandro Roces. Performances are scheduled from Dec. 3 to 5 at the Saint Cecilia's Hall of the Saint Scholastica's College, Manila; Dec. 10 and 11 at the RFC Cinema Theatre, Las Pinas City; Jan. 14 to 16, Feb. 11 to 13, at the AFP Theater in Quezon City. Shows are every 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. For tickets, bookings and reservations, call the GTF marketing office at 899-5745 and 896-3503.

DLS-CSB Alumni Advent Recollection

DE LA Salle-College of Saint Benilde will be holding the first Advent recollection for Benildean alumni on Dec. 5, Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Contemplation Room of the Taft Campus. Following Henry Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World," the recollection will look into the Season of Advent as a time to reaffirm our Belovedness, to renew the spirit of Christ coming into our lives, and to renew the way we do and say things. The recollection will be facilitated by Br. Kenneth Martinez FSC and will be free of charge. Lunch will also be provided. Slots, however, are limited. Interested Benildean alumni can call Kato Sarmiento at 526-7441 to 47

ProductFILES

Belens all over

THE FRIENDS of Intramuros Foundation Inc sponsors a special display of "Belens from Around the World" in San Agustin Museum. More than 600 art pieces from various places such as Africa, Spain, China, Mexico, Italy and the Philippines featuring the Christmas theme will be displayed.

These Belens are a part of the two different collections of Gigi Carlos and Robert Lane that have been assembled over the past 50 years. Featured belens are made of different materials such as terra cotta, metal, porcelain, resin, paper mache and wood and artistic interpretations of the manger scene and the Holy Family being visited by shepherds and the three kings.

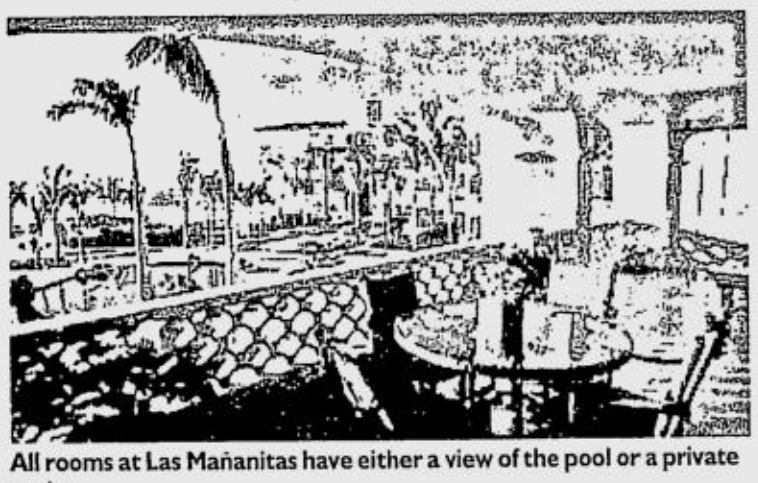
The exhibition is scheduled to run from Dec. 5 to 31 at the 2nd floor of the San Agustin Museum, Gen. Luna corner Real Street, Intramuros, Manila. Museum hours are from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. everyday including Sundays and holidays. For inquiries, call 527-4060/61 or 526-6793/94.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Secret addresses: Las Mañanitas in Cuernavaca, Amalfi Coast

HELICOPTER view of the Amalfi Coast in Mexico

THE PINK facade of Las Mañanitas Hotel



All rooms at Las Mañanitas have either a view of the pool or a private patio

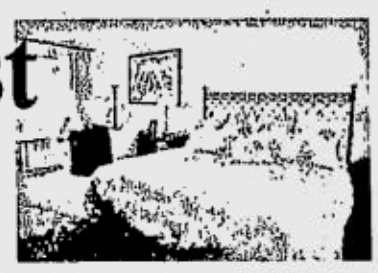
GUESTS can enjoy a cocktail or dine al fresco in the lush gardens where exotic birds wander freely

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

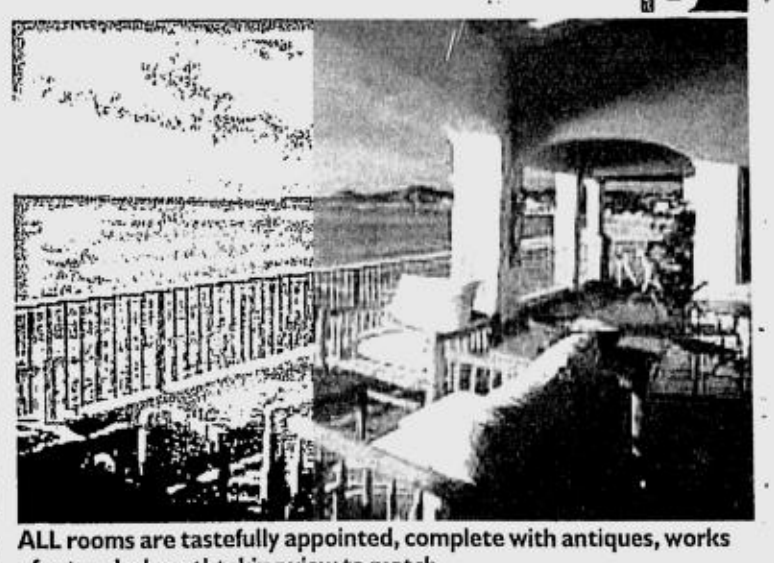
BUSINESS TRAVEL

RICHARD Ostrowski, a businessman from Chicago, Illinois, shares two of his secret addresses with us: "Right off the highway on the way to Cuernavaca from Mexico City are a row of food vendors. Their colorful tent-like awnings will lure you to stop and grab a bite. The señoras prepare the irresistible Mexican specialties on open grills. Tortillas are made from scratch (as it is being done for many centuries). Beef, pork and chorizo and unusual green and red Mexican chorizos are in trays, vegetables and a variety of cheeses in colorful bowls. Authentic Mexican tacos and other popular dishes are prepared as ordered and served piping hot. Faster than a "rest" stop but as leisurely as one wishes, this road stop is a wonderful yet quaint way to experience the traditional local flavor.

A not-so-secret get away hidden behind stone walls is Las Mañanitas, a hotel garden and restaurant in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Cuernavaca is a mountain city south of Mexico City. Since the Aztecs, it has been called The City Of Eternal Spring. Founded in 1955 by the Krause family, the Hotel is located just seven blocks away from downtown Cuernavaca. The hotel's 20 elegantly-decorated suites (colonial-themed décor) with individual patios. One can enjoy a cocktail or dine in the lush gardens where exotic birds wander freely. Two gardens complete with fountains and a variety of plants and flowers charm the senses. A zen-inspired pond and a collection of Francisco Zuñiga sculptures make a great centerpiece for the lush gardens. An evening setting is more romantic with candles lining the walkways."



LAS MAÑANITAS Hotel in Cuernavaca, Mexico, the City of Eternal Spring



ALL rooms are tastefully appointed, complete with antiques, works of art and a breathtaking view to match.

"The view at Amalfi Coast in Italy is just incredible, just like the French Riviera but more sultry because it is Latin. I love hanging out in their sun-baked beaches with my glass of wine."—Donnie C. Ramirez, PR Practitioner, Journalist and Frequent Business Traveler

Business Travel Tip: Our feet tend to swell on airplanes so we recommend wearing a comfortable pair of shoes, sneakers or moccasins, that have the capability to expand.

For feedback, please e-mail sdg1402@yahoo.com

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Promo Period: Sept. 27- Dec. 14, 2004
Deadline of Entries:
Monthly Draws: October 17 and Nov. 17, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 14, 2004
Draw Dates:
Monthly Draw: October 22 and Nov. 22, 2004
Grand Draw: Dec. 21, 2004

See posters and print ads for details.
Per DTI Permit No. 2147, series of 2004

Drop in drop boxes located at Ayala and Robinson's cinema lobbies, and all LBC and Netopia branches. You may also mail entries to: Guyito Wild Hunt, PDI Bldg., corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

Canon

BUY A STYLISH **PIXMA PRINTER.**
GET A CHANCE TO DRIVE HOME A STYLISH **PEUGEOT 206.**

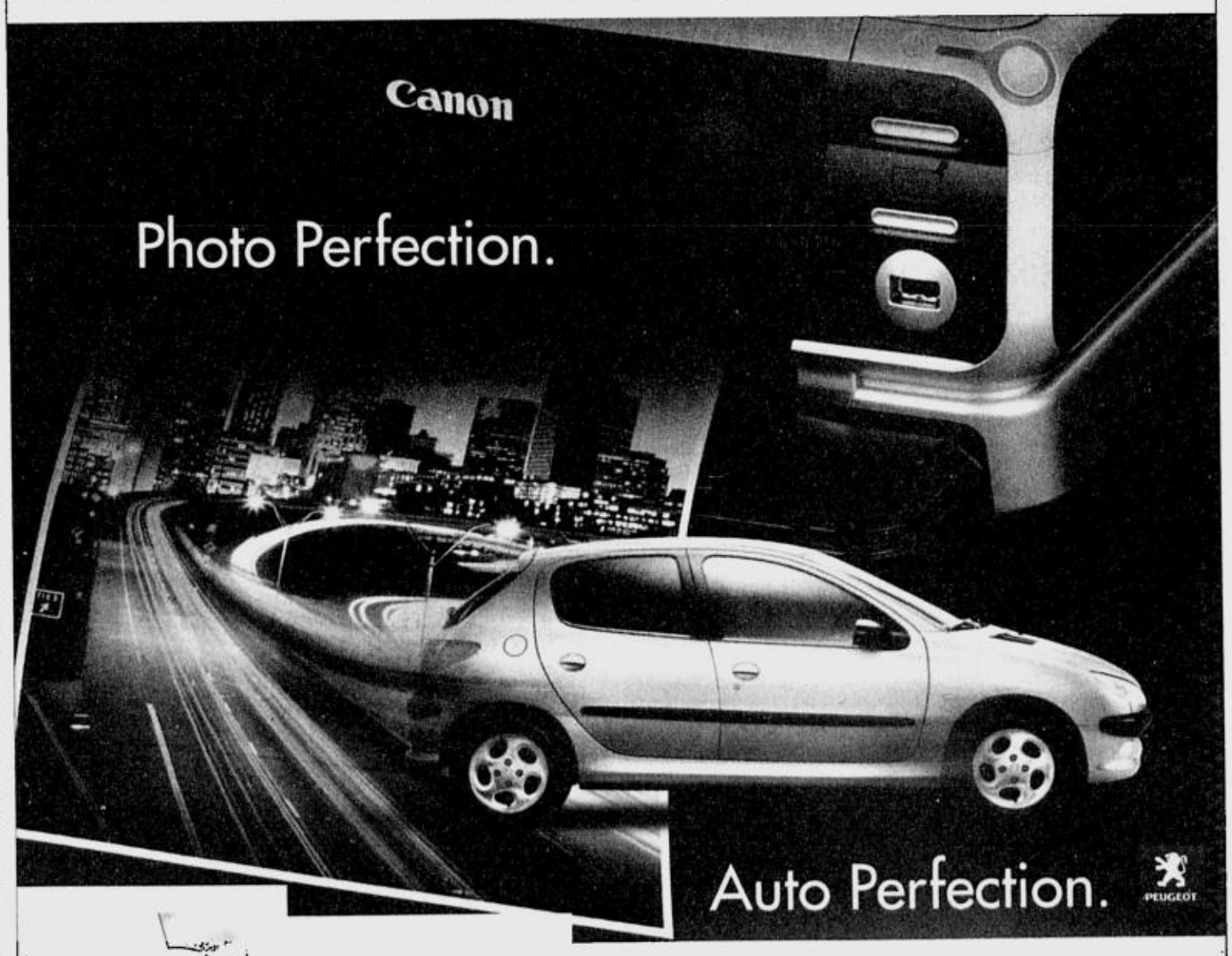

PHOTO PERFECTION BY
PIXMA

Promo Mechanics:

- Each purchase of any of the participating models of Canon Pixma Printer from all accredited Canon dealers nationwide, entitles the customer to a certain number of raffle coupons for a chance to win a Peugeot 206.

Raffle coupon breakdown.

iP1000	=	1	raffle stub
iP1500	=	2	raffle stubs
iP2000	=	3	raffle stubs
iP3000	=	4	raffle stubs
iP4000	=	6	raffle stubs
iP5000	=	8	raffle stubs
iP6000D	=	10	raffle stubs
iP8500	=	12	raffle stubs

- Customer shall fill up the raffle coupon with his/her name, address, telephone number, warranty card number, store name, model purchased, and affix signature
- Drop at designated drop boxes located inside the stores/retail outlets or place in a white legal sized envelop and mail to

"Photo Perfection Auto Perfection." Raffle Promo
Canon Marketing Philippines, Inc.
2F Marvin Plaza Bldg. 2153 Don Chino Rocas Ave.
cor V.A. Rufino St., Makati City.

- Promo period is from October 15 to December 15, 2004. Deadline of dropping the raffle coupons is on December 15, 2004 at 9:00PM. Mailed entries should be received not later than December 22, 2004.
- Raffle draw will be on December 28, 2004 at 3:00PM at Canon Marketing Philippines' head office with the presence of a DTI representative.
- The prize is not convertible to cash.
- The winner will be notified via registered mail and will be given specific instructions as to how and when he can claim his prize.
- To claim the prize, the winner must present any valid ID (SSS, TIN, Postal ID, Driver's license, Passport), warranty card and notification letter to Jill Santiago or Lesley Ang of Canon Marketing Philippines with office at 2F Marvin Plaza Bldg. 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave. cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City.
- The winner shall shoulder the 20% prize tax of the Peugeot 206 plus the vehicles' documentation requirements
- If prize is not claimed within sixty days (60) from receipt of registered mail, the prize will be forfeited in favor of Canon Marketing Philippines, with prior approval from DTI.
- Employees of Canon Marketing Philippines, its advertising agency, participating retail outlets and authorized dealers including their relatives up to 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo

PARTICIPATING MODELS:

Actual car may vary from photo.

Per DTI Permit No. 4488 Series of 2004

South & Southeast Asia Regional Headquarters:
Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 www.canon-asia.com
Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza 2163 Don Chino Roces Avenue, cor V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 / 812-8078 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax 810-9797
E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

People, Events & Products

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Go easy on that holiday feast

FOR MANY Filipinos, the Christmas season is a time for thanksgiving-a reason to celebrate, and an excuse to eat a lot. Indeed, the holiday season is a weight watcher's nightmare. Many people tend to overeat, and in the process gain weight during this time of the year. If this persists for a long time, it could result in overweight or worse, obesity.

Obesity is defined as an excessively high amount of body fat or adipose tissue in relation to lean body mass. Body mass index (BMI) is used to find out if a person is obese or not. For Asians, a BMI of above 25 is already considered obese. Obesity, together with hypertension, dyslipidemia, and glucose intolerance or the inability of the body's cells to metabolize glucose, is a factor in the condition known as metabolic syndrome.

People with metabolic syndrome have a three-fold risk of developing (and dying from) heart disease and stroke. Recent data from the National Health Survey showed that 14 to 20 percent of Filipinos have metabolic syndrome. Another study, this time by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute, showed that one in every five Filipino adults has metabolic syndrome.

Obesity has been identified as a major culprit in the rise in the number of people with this syndrome. "Once clinical obesity is developed, this could lead to serious complications, which may be difficult to reverse," said Dr. Ricardo Fernando of the Institute for the Study of Diabetes Foundation.

Studies have shown that treating metabolic syndrome can significantly prevent the onset of heart attack or stroke. A major component of the treatment is lifestyle change, which means a healthy diet (low fat, low salt) and regular exercise.

However, there are cases that may require pharmacological intervention.

One of the drugs prescribed to treat dyslipidemia in metabolic syndrome is fenofibrate. This drug increases low levels of high density lipoprotein (HDL), also known as good cholesterol, and triglycerides, and decreases the levels of low density lipoprotein (LDL), or the bad cholesterol.

Fenofibrate helps halt the progression of atherosclerosis, a condition characterized by the hardening and narrowing of blood vessels, which could lead to heart attack or stroke.

Filipino-owned Patriot Pharmaceutical Corp. will soon launch its own brand of fenofibrate 200mg. This, the company hopes, will increase the Filipinos' chance of winning the battle against the dreaded metabolic syndrome.

Fenofibrate is a drug that should only be taken upon a doctor's advice.

MCKENZIE-CADBURY, SM'S TRADE PARTNER OF THE YEAR

McKenzie Distribution Company Inc's aggressive marketing initiatives have paid off. This year, the company, together with Cadbury Philippines, was chosen by Super Value Inc (SVI) as the Most Outstanding Trade Partner of the Year (Motpy) 2004-National Category. McKenzie and the Cadbury Philippines sales team bested 6 other nominees vying for the award. The Motpy award recognizes trade partners who have established good business relationships with SVI, the Supermarket arm of the SM Group of Companies. Every year, SVI gives out the award to the trade partner with the most outstanding sales performance and who has manifested best in class customer management solutions and initiatives. Those who vie for the gold are well-known and globally recognized consumer brands. McKenzie Distribution Company Inc is one of the largest distribution companies in the Philippines carrying market leaders like Cadbury Philippines, makers of Cadbury Chocolates and Adams confectionery (Halls, Clorets and Chiclets); Perfetti Van Melle (Mentos, Fruitella and Happydent) and Biersdorf (Nivea). At the awarding ceremony were (from left) district managers Felipe Santos and Jojo Buhion, key account specialist Ricky Yapit, senior VP for SM Group of Companies Herbert Sy, national retail channel manager for McKenzie Gary Lagunsad, district manager Virgo Villacorta, national sales manager-Cadbury Philippines Jorel Buhay, and key account specialist Simon Samson.

Siemens Christmas Consumer Promo

IT'S gift-giving season once more! Siemens, in the spirit of the holiday season, is giving away free accessories to anyone who avails himself of any of Siemens' latest mobile phones this Christmas Season.

Anyone who purchases any of the Siemens' Generation 65 mobile phones from accredited dealers will get a free Siemens Purestyle Headset or Siemens Car Charger Plus. Buyers are free to choose which one of the two accessories they would like to avail themselves of.

The premium item can be claimed instantly upon purchase of any of the following: Siemens C65, CX65, M65, S65 and SL65 mobile phones.

This promo is available at any authorized Siemens outlets such as Semicon, MemoXpress, Wireless Connection, and ADI Telecom, among others, and at the new Siemens Mobile Concept Shop at the Digital Exchange located at the Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City and the Siemens Mobile Concept Shop inside SM City North Edsa. Promo ends Dec. 31.

Jitse changes name to PhilNits

THE JAPANESE IT Standard Examinations Philippine Foundation Inc (Jitse Philippines) has changed its corporate name to the Philippine National IT Standards Foundation (PhilNits) Inc.

Maricor Akol, president of PhilNits, said the change in the corporate name is intended to correct the misconception that the IT standard exams being implemented are only for the Japanese market.

PhilNits is a non-stock, non-profit, non-government organization that is implementing an internationally recognized certification program from the Japan Information Technology Engineers Examination Center (Jitec) of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Meti) of Japan without necessarily limiting the use only for the Japanese market.

Following a close examination and evaluation of the Jitse standard by the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the National Computer Center, it was found that the Jitse standard is equivalent to the European and American standard on the fundamentals of IT.

Jitse is identified with the fundamental exam (FE) from the Jitec.

Jitse exams measure the competency of an individual on the fundamentals of IT based on standards adopted by Jitec and recognized by India, China, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar, Chinese Taipei and the Philippines.

BPS has approved the recognition of the Jitse standard as a Philippine national standard with product number PNS 2030:2003.

The fundamental IT exams or popularly called Jitse exams are given twice a year. For 2005, the scheduled exams are on May 22 and October 9.

The exams will be held in six testing centers nationwide: Philippine Christian University along Taft Avenue in Manila, Ateneo de Zamboanga University in Zamboanga City, Capitol University in Cagayan de Oro City, University of San Carlos in Cebu City, University of Baguio in Baguio City and Faith Academy in Tanauan, Batangas.

Yuletide promo at Bayview Park Hotel

TREAT your family and loved ones for an exciting holiday vacation at Bayview Park Hotel's "Yuletide Special Promo". This is open from Dec. 10 until Jan. 11, 2005.

According to Marie Jean P. Cordero, director of sales and marketing, this includes overnight accommodation up to family of four; buffet breakfast for 2; and complimentary shuttle service to Baywalk. Plus, free use of swimming pool and fitness gym and complimentary use of coffee and tea making facilities inside the room are available.

This promo is priced for only P2,700 net for Superior Room, while it's P2,200 net for the Standard Room. There's an almost 40-percent discount from the regular room rates.

For reservations, call 526-1555 locals 1759 or 1757, or e-mail bookings@bayviewparkhotel.com.

Bayview Park Hotel is at 1118 Roxas Boulevard corner UN Avenue, Manila.

CITEM accepting applications for 2005 e-Services exposition

THE CENTER for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) is accepting exhibitor applications for the e-Services Philippines 2005 exhibition and conference. Firms offering outsourced IT and IT-enabled services (ITES) to domestic and foreign clients are invited to participate in the country's largest ITES exposition Feb 17 and 18 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Manila, according to organizers. e-Services draws thousands of visitors each year, and showcases the country's six most promising IT and ITES sectors: animation, business process outsourcing, contact centers, medical transcription, software application development, and engineering and design. Companies interested in participating in e-Services Philippines 2005 can call Citem's IT Services and Electronics Division at 8325044 or 8312201 local 301, fax 8323965 or 8340177, or e-mail itservices@citem.com.ph, o log on to www.e-servicesphils.com.

BANTAY BATA COIN BANKS AT TOTAL SERVICE STATION

Living up to its commitment as a socially responsible business enterprise, Total Philippines Corp. is now displaying coin banks in its 67 service stations in different parts of the country to accept donations for the Bantay Bata Foundation of ABS-CBN. Bantay Bata 163 is a media-based intervention program that provides a wholistic approach in the rescue and rehabilitation of abused children. Shown are (from left) Mike Serrano, Total retail business councilor, receiving the Bantay Bata coin banks from Elvira Yulo, head of the Bantay Bata 163 Coinbank Team.

Davao spa offers best in health, recreational facilities

DAVAO City is constantly in bloom and rich with fruit, a consequence of the clear, typhoon-free weather. For the adventurous tourist, Davao is home to the country's highest mountain Mt. Apo, the Marilog District, which flourishes with Mother Earth's wonders like caves, waterfalls and rivers and a lot more natural resources ready to be discovered. The shopper also belongs to this Southern shopping capital. Local beauties include jars, batik garments, brass and ethnic products. Despite all the activities one can relish in, relaxation is not impossible.

Holiday Spa offers the best in health and recreational facilities. From Monday to Saturday, guests and health club members can take advantage of six aerobics classes held at the Spa's aerobics studio, while two badminton courts located inside the vicinity of the Spa provide a venue for a more intense workout. Certified gym instructors headed by health guru Tina Aboitiz Juan are on hand at the fitness center to assist guests. A complete line of gym equipment is also available here.

"What is unique in here is that everything is under one roof," says Mae Bangayan, general manager of Davao's Spa. "If you don't want to use the treadmill to warm up your body, guests can use the circular jogging area, constructed purposely for joggers before lifting weights," added Gene Bangayan, Spa owner.

The Holiday Spa is not only about physical fitness. It also focuses on total wellness by making available to its visitors and members the following facilities and services: massage for aching muscles, outdoor swimming pool for a lighter workout, Jacuzzi and sauna room to pamper and relax both mind and body, a cozy salon and a foot massage and reflexology department. If your are starving for healthy food, Holiday Spa Coffee Shoppe offers the best Davao food prepared by Pady Lascano, one of Davao's best food consultants.

On the other side of the wing, you'll see a mini-boxing arena. "It's really invigorating here after spending your relaxing day here at Holiday Spa", says Mae.

Davao Holiday Spa, a brainchild of Buboy Bangayan, is located at F. Torres Street, Davao City. For more inquiries, call 082-2255577 or 082-2263683.

Celebration of ever-growing 'Blogging Barkada'

THOUSANDS of CubeBlog registered members has created a "blogging" frenzy since the launching of CubeBlog, the coolest online hang-out for the barkada developed by Cube Interactive.

CubeBlog's uniqueness has brought blogging to a higher level by bringing in together a convergence of three different mediums that one can use to blog: the mobile phone, landline and television. Through its "moblogging" feature, members can post their "blogs" or journals, send graphics and photos, get message alerts, and do other cool stuff with their account using their mobile phones. A feature called CubeTLK also allows members to record voice messages and post comments using the PLDT's premium phone service hotline 1908-CubeTLK (1908-2823855). All CubeBlog members are assigned a CubeTLK ID and PIN, which they can use in accessing their CubeTLK voice mailbox. Its TV component will enable members to chat via TV or send blogs via CubeiTV (to be launched soon).

The plus factor of additional features like these attracts scores of new CubeBlog users by downloading a free handset application by logging on to wapsite http://mobilegames.epldt.net or just by texting Mblog On and sending it to 483 for Smart and Talk&Text or 2219 for Globe & Touch Mobile.

While the idea of the blog site is to provide a fun way to keep in touch with friends and make new ones virtually, CubeBlog takes it a step further by hosting events and parties to allow its registered users to actually meet. The CubeBlog EB (Eye Ball) Party, which took place at Basement, Eastwood City, Libis Dec. 4, was a chance for the entire CubeBlog barkada to see each other and have lively conversations face to face. Everyone who registered or are members of CubeBlog attended the party; even non-members joined the fun by showing up in party gear and registering online inside the party's premises.

Computer and mobile phone terminals was also set-up so guests can blog and interact in real life and online all at the same time.

Bloggers grooved to the tunes of Stonefree, Wunjo, and Shane Trace - a new and upcoming R&B artist from the United States, and took to the dance floor with new friends to the beats spun by the night's DJ/Spinner.

Can't get enough of the fun awaiting you and your barkada? Log on now and register to www.cubeblog.com.

Games, gadgets show to premier hottest MMORPGs, gizmos

COMMERCIAL as well as up-and-coming Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games (MMORPG) in the Philippines will share the stage for the first time at the Games and Gadgets Show 2005 (G2 Show) being organized by MMOG Philippines and Gold Horizons Interactive Media.

At least five MMORPG publishers, led by Level Up's commercially available Ragnarok Online and Mobius' open beta Mu Online, have already signed up for the G2 Show slated from Jan. 7 to 9 at the SM Megatrade Hall 1 and 2, according to Jamie Francis Dy, MMOG business development director.

"It's going to be a feast for Filipino gamers as they get to see the different MMORPGs side by side and also get a preview of new ones that will be hitting the Philippines soon," Dy said.

The G2 Show is MMOG Philippines' initial venture at bringing together the rapidly growing Filipino online gaming community as well as providing a platform for game publishers to showcase the latest developments in MMORPGs in the Philippines.

"We're here to reach out to avid Filipino gamers as well as help game publishers further develop the gaming base in the Philippines. The online gaming community in the Philippines is in its infancy and we want to see it grow," Dy said.

Aside from MMORPGs, the G2 Show will also feature the latest electronic gadgets and gizmos from different categories including audio, broadband, digital entertainment, digital imaging, embedded technologies, home theater, mobile electronics, telecommunication, video and wireless.

"During the G2 Show, consumers will be able to review, test, and assess a wide assembly of technology products that they have so far only heard in the news. The G2 Show will be different in that sense because it's going to be a showcase for all things new," Dy said.

The G2 Show will also be highlighted by the PC Modding Contest, where individuals and companies jazz up the traditional PC box, as well as the Costume Play (CosPlay) Competition, where avid gamers can dress up as their favorite MMORPG character during the Show.

Capping the G2 Show will be the awarding of The Best Games and Gadgets, or the hottest technology products on the show floor, which will be selected by the droves of people expected to attend the event.

"The awards will be chosen by the people who will be attending the G2 Show and will serve as a good indication of what's going to be the next in-thing among our technology-crazy citizenry," Dy said.

To know more about the Games and Gadgets Show 2005, visit www.g2show.com.ph.

More PEP on page B4

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

8th Floor Pacific Center Bldg., San Miguel Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

INVITATION TO BID

The Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF) Bidding Committee shall conduct a public bidding for the sale of the following acquired residential properties on December 23, THURSDAY, 2:00 PM at 8th FLR., Pacific Center Bldg, San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

BULACAN AREA

BELMONT PARK VILLAGE
Bo. Caypombo Sta Maria Bulacan

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1	BLK 15 LOT 30	T-344550(M)	22.00	38.50	255,479.65

CARISSA HOMES NORTH
Bo. Sto Cristo San Jose Del Monte Bulacan

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
2	BLK 01 LOT 04 PH 5C	T-35287P (M)	20.62	55.00	170,162.87

CITYVILLE HOMES
Bo. Tungkong Mangga, San Jose Del Monte Bulacan

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
3	BLK 08 LOT 05	T-202746(M)	31.50	35.00	233,325.95
4	BLK 10 LOT 06	T-202802(M)	31.50	35.00	233,325.95

HARMONY HILLS SUBD
Bo. Muzon San Jose Del Monte Bulacan

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
5	BLK 02 LOT 82 PH I	T-196568(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
6	BLK 12 LOT 48 PH I	T-197220(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
7	BLK 13 LOT 41 PH I	T-197277 (M)	24.00	57.00	305,512.12
8	BLK 19 LOT 11 PH II	T-266054(M	20.00	35.00	196,563.59
9	BLK 19 LOT 16 PH II	T-266059(M)	20.00	35.00	159,341.98
10	BLK 21 LOT 57 PH I	T-197681(M)	24.00	57.00	179,039.30
11	BLK 23 LOT 30 PH I	T-197782(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
12	BLK 26 LOT 26 PH I	T-197970(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
13	BLK 29 LOT 69 PH I	T-198205	24.00	38.00	197,090.62
14	BLK 30 LOT 21 PH I	T-198251(M)	24.00	59.00	310,484.12
15	BLK 52 LOT 03 PH I	T-200107(M)	24.00	38.00	197,090.62

MELODY PLAINS SUBD
Bo. Sta Maria Meycauyan Bulacan

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
16	BLK 14 LOT 22	T-243620(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
17	BLK 25 LOT 12	T-243857(M)	20.16	39.60	179,726.10
18	BLK 29 LOT 13	T-243952(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
19	BLK 39 LOT 19	T-244208(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
20	BLK 48 LOT 17	T-244523(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
21	BLK 51 LOT 20	T-244592(M)	20.16	39.60	173,272.08
22	BLK 63 LOT 19 & 20	T-244919(M)/20M	20.16	81.40	296,174.26
23	BLK 95 LOT 09	T-245764(M)	20.16	39.60	192,524.53
24	BLK 99 LOT 12	T-245856(M)	20.16	39.60	158,628.59

NORTHRIDGE
Bo. Sto Cristo SJDM Bulacan

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
25	BLK 06 LOT 37	T-363764(M)	36.00	44.00	216,355.25

NORTHWINDS CITY
Bo. Sto Cristo SJDM Bulacan

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
26	BLK 09 LOT 10 PH 4C	T-55288P(M)	25.00	60.00	276,119.64
27	BLK 07 LOT 18 PH 3B	T-272865(M)	25.00	79.00	236,455.33

SARMIENTO HOMES
Bo. Muzon SJDM Bulacan

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
28	BLK 22 LOT 37	T-236497(M)	26.40	60.00	341,075.20
29	BLK 28 LOT 75	T-426288(M)	26.40	40.00	193,764.36
30	BLK 31 LOT 08	T-235768(M)	20.72	40.00	220,740.64
31	BLK 50 LOT 45	T-20369P(M)	26.40	40.00	224,332.80

WOODBRIDGE
Bo. Poblacion Pandi Bulacan

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
32	BLK 64 LOT 07	T-353669(M)	20.00	42.00	151,396.12

CAVITE AREA

ARMSTRONG VILLAGE
Bo. Salawag, Dasmarinas Cavite

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
33	BLK 02 LOT 67	T-543426	21.00	38.00	189,418.13
34	BLK 04 LOT 16	T-543589	21.00	38.00	189,418.13

BELLEVIEW MEADOWS
Bo. Bagtas Tanza Cavite

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
35	BLK 01 LOT 09 SEC 33	T-605186	20.16	39.60	189,382.01
36	BLK 05 LOT 13 SEC 34	T-605423	20.16	39.60	172,434.98

BELVEDERE
Bo. Quintana Tanza Cavite
Bo. Pasong Kawayan Gen Trias Cavite

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
37	BLK 01 LOT 03 & 04 SEC 07 PH I	T-672907A/906A	20.12	77.00	321,838.25
38	BLK 01 LOT 06 SEC 02 PH II	T-666560	20.12	38.50	197,516.95
39	BLK 01 LOT 06 SEC 04 PH II	T-667000	20.12	38.50	184,867.92
40	BLK 01 LOT 06 SEC 08 PH III	T-732650	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
41	BLK 01 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 07 PH I	T-672911A/913A	20.12	77.00	318,806.25
42	BLK 01 LOT 08 SEC 02 PH II	6-666582	20.12	38.50	208,753.63
43	BLK 01 LOT 08 SEC 03 PH II	T-666762	20.12	38.50	206,804.91
44	BLK 01 LOT 08 SEC 10 PH III	T-732823	20.12	36.00	193,134.86
45	BLK 01 LOT 09 & 11 SEC 05 PH I	T-671032/34	20.12	77.00	325,276.72
46	BLK 01 LOT 10 SEC 10 PH III	T-732825	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
47	BLK 01 LOT 10 SEC 2 PH II	T-666564	20.12	38.50	208,181.62
48	BLK 01 LOT 102 & 103 SEC 10 PH I	T-674040-A/41-A	20.12	77.00	330,253.16
49	BLK 01 LOT 104 & 105 SEC 10 PH I	T-674042A/043A	20.12	74.50	317,801.72
50	BLK 01 LOT 112 SEC 10 PH I	T-674050-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
51	BLK 01 LOT 115 & 116 SEC 10 PH I	T-674054-A	20.12	84.00	307,913.39
52	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH II	T-665898	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
53	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 09 PH I	T-673628-A	20.12	38.50	213,334.96
54	BLK 01 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-665900	20.12	38.50	180,470.20
55	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 02 PH II	T-666570	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
56	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 04 PH II	T-667010	20.12	38.50	206,601.31
57	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH III	T-732831	20.12	36.00	171,081.52
58	BLK 01 LOT 18 SEC 02 PH II	T-666572	20.12	35.00	181,126.41
59	BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 01 PH II	T-665905	20.12	38.50	211,216.20
60	BLK 01 LOT 20 SEC 04 PH II	T-667014	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
61	BLK 01 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH II	T-665907	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
62	BLK 01 LOT 22 & 24 SEC 07 PH I	T-672925-A/927A	20.12	77.00	325,276.72
63	BLK 01 LOT 22 & 24 SEC 09 PH I	T-673638A/640A	20.12	38.50	326,323.25
64	BLK 01 LOT 22 SEC 02 PH II	T-666576	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
65	BLK 01 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-672928-A	20.12	38.50	212,711.42
66	BLK 01 LOT 26 SEC 04 PH II	T-667020	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
67	BLK 01 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH II	T-665913	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
68	BLK 01 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672370-A	20.12	38.50	212,066.57
69	BLK 01 LOT 28 SEC 10 PH III	T-732843	20.12	36.00	196,148.03
70	BLK 01 LOT 29 & 31 SEC 04 PH II	T-667023/025	20.12	77.00	305,383.68
71	BLK 01 LOT 30 SEC 02 PH II	T-666584	20.12	38.50	210,537.54
72	BLK 01 LOT 30 SEC 04 PH II	T-667024	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
73	BLK 01 LOT 30 SEC 08 PH III	T-732674	20.12	36.00	174,798.65
74	BLK 01 LOT 34 SEC 03 PH II	T-666788	20.12	38.50	203,237.09
75	BLK 01 LOT 34 SEC 04 PH II	T-667028	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
76	BLK 01 LOT 36 SEC 03 PH II	T-666790	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
77	BLK 01 LOT 36 SEC 07 PH I	T-672939-A	20.12	38.50	211,950.23
78	BLK 01 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 02 PH II	T-666591/93	20.12	77.00	337,048.35
79	BLK 01 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 04 PH II	T-667033/031	20.12	77.00	266,746.70
80	BLK 01 LOT 38 SEC 10 PH III	T-732853	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
81	BLK 01 LOT 41 SEC 01 PH I	T-667326	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
82	BLK 01 LOT 46 SEC 01 PH I	T-667331	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
83	BLK 01 LOT 56 & 57 SEC 10 PH I	T-673994A/995A	20.12	77.00	321,838.25
84	BLK 01 LOT 92 & 93 SEC 10 PH I	T-674030-A/031A	20.12	77.00	289,139.39
85	BLK 02 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 02 PH III	T-692631/629	20.12	72.00	297,904.86
86	BLK 02 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 10 PH III	T-328860/862	20.12	36.00	304,317.12
87	BLK 02 LOT 02 SEC 09 PH I	T-673642	20.12	38.50	198,923.30
88	BLK 02 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH I	T-667340	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
89	BLK 02 LOT 05 SEC 08 PH III	T-732688	20.12	36.00	194,238.09
90	BLK 02 LOT 06 SEC 02 PH II	T-666600	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
91	BLK 02 LOT 06 SEC 03 PH II	T-666800	20.12	38.50	207,774.42
92	BLK 02 LOT 06 SEC 04 PH II	T-667040	20.12	38.50	204,187.21
93	BLK 02 LOT 06 SEC 10 PH III	T-732864	20.12	36.00	188,450.08
94	BLK 02 LOT 07 SEC 01 PH I	T-667342	20.12	38.50	177,503.42
95	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 02 PH II	T-666602	20.12	38.50	164,443.38
96	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 04 PH II	T-667042	20.12	38.50	162,558.65
97	BLK 02 LOT 08 SEC 10 PH III	T-732866	20.12	36.00	194,364.12
98	BLK 02 LOT 09 SEC 09 PH I	T-673649A	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
99	BLK 02 LOT 10 SEC 15 PH III	T-733441	20.12	36.00	193,134.88
100	BLK 02 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH II	T-665927	20.12	38.50	180,470.20
101	BLK 02 LOT 11 SEC 07 PH I	T-672954-A	20.12	38.50	190,670.98
102	BLK 02 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH I	T-667347	20.12	38.50	207,122.91
103	BLK 02 LOT 12 SEC 03 PH II	T-666806	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
104	BLK 02 LOT 12 SEC 07 PH I	T-672955-A	20.12	38.50	197,034.55
105	BLK 02 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 04 PH II	T-667047/49	20.12	77.00	301,426.29
106	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 08 PH I	T-673484	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
107	BLK 02 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-665930	20.12	38.50	197,516.95
108	BLK 02 LOT 15 SEC 08 PH I	T-673486-A	20.12	38.50	204,648.03
109	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH II	T-665932	20.12	38.50	211,390.72
110	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 02 PH II	T-666610	20.12	38.50	205,466.97
111	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 08 PH I	T-67387A	20.12	38.50	211,466.38
112	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 08 PH III	T-732699	20.12	36.00	175,060.41
113	BLK 02 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH III	T-732874	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
114	BLK 02 LOT 17 SEC 01 PH II	T-665933	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
115	BLK 02 LOT 18 & 20 SEC 08 PH I	T-673489/673491	20.12	77.00	305,383.68
116	BLK 02 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH II	T-665934	20.12	38.50	207,144.24
117	BLK 02 LOT 18 SEC 04 PH II	T-667052	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
118	BLK 02 LOT 19 SEC 01 PH II	T-665935	20.12	38.50	209,897.66
119	BLK 02 LOT 19 SEC 08 PH III	T-732702	20.12	36.00	190,379.41
120	BLK 02 LOT 20 SEC 01 PH II	T-665936	20.12	38.50	198,244.08
121	BLK 02 LOT 20 SEC 04 PH II	T-667054	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
122	BLK 02 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-672964A	20.12	38.50	169,047.98
123	BLK 02 LOT 25 & 27 SEC 05 PH I	T-671090/088	20.12	77.00	292,749.05
124	BLK 02 LOT 25 SEC 01 PH II	T-665941	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
125	BLK 02 LOT 26 & 28 SEC 07 PH I	T-672969A/71	20.12	77.00	288,695.39
126	BLK 02 LOT 26 SEC 01 PH II	T-665942	20.12	38.50	209,151.13
127	BLK 02 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH II	T-665943	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
128	BLK 02 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672410-A	20.12	38.50	200,015.49
129	BLK 02 LOT 29 & 31 SEC 04 PH II	T-667063/65	20.12	77.00	337,048.35
130	BLK 02 LOT 29 SEC 06 PH I	T-672412-A	20.12	38.50	208,336.74
131	BLK 02 LOT 30 SEC 03 PH II	T-666824	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
132	BLK 02 LOT 30 SEC 05 PH I	T-671093	20.12	38.50	177,331.10
133	BLK 02 LOT 31 SEC 03 PH I	T-667667	20.12	38.50	197,901.95
134	BLK 02 LOT 32 SEC 03 PH II	T-666826	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
135	BLK 02 LOT 34 & 36 SEC 04 PH I	T-670751/753	20.12	74.00	373,528.54
136	BLK 02 LOT 35 SEC 02 PH II	T-666654	20.12	38.50	188,785.74
137	BLK 02 LOT 36 SEC 03 PH II	T-666830	20.12	38.50	200,309.15
138	BLK 02 LOT 36 SEC 06 PH I	T-672419-A	20.12	38.50	274,681.57
139	BLK 02 LOT 43 SEC 06 PH III	T-732219	20.12	36.00	189,128.74
140	BLK 03 LOT 03 SEC 06 PH III	T-732230	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
141	BLK 03 LOT 04 & 05 SEC 08 PH III	T-732715/714	20.12	88.00	348,152.98
142	BLK 03 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH II	T-665951	20.12	38.50	208,802.11
143	BLK 03 LOT 05 SEC 04 PH III	T-692974	20.12	36.00	179,772.91
144	BLK 03 LOT 06 SEC 01 PH II	T-665952	20.12	54.00	260,312.80
145	BLK 03 LOT 06 SEC 08 PH I	T-673503	20.12	38.50	190,939.34
146	BLK 03 LOT 06 SEC 10 PH III	T-732890	20.12	36.00	175,060.41
147	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 07 PH I	T-672992A/990A	20.12	77.00	337,910.07
148	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 09 PH I	T-672660A/662A	20.12	77.00	321,838.25
149	* BLK 03 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 09 PH I	T-673661A/63A	20.12	77.00	298,620.99
150	BLK 03 LOT 09 SEC 08 PH I	T-673506A	20.12	38.50	203,017.99
151	BLK 03 LOT 10 SEC 08 PH I	T-673507	20.12	38.50	210,216.66
152	BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 04 PH II	T-667085	20.12	38.50	210,120.65
153	BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 07 PH I	T-672994-A	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
154	BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 10 PH III	T-732895	20.12	36.00	192,873.09
155	BLK 03 LOT 12 SEC 06 PH III	T-732239	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
156	BLK 03 LOT 12 SEC 10 PH III	T-732896	20.12	36.00	194,511.57
157	BLK 03 LOT 15 SEC 01 PH I	T-667374	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
158	BLK 03 LOT 15 SEC 10 PH III	T-732899	20.12	36.00	190,439.60
159	BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 03 PH II	T-666850	20.12	38.50	208,802.11
160	BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH III	T-732243	20.12	36.00	177,892.05
161	BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 07 PH I	T-672999-A	20.12	38.50	194,870.41
162	BLK 03 LOT 17 SEC 06 PH III	T-732244	20.12	36.00	193,988.03
163	BLK 03 LOT 18 SEC 04 PH II	T-667092	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
164	BLK 03 LOT 18 SEC 08 PH I	T-673515-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
165	BLK 03 LOT 19 & 21 SEC 06 PH III	T-732246/732248	20.12	73.00	297,974.39
166	BLK 03 LOT 21 & 23 SEC 01 PH I	T-667382/380	20.12	72.50	306,823.35
167	BLK 03 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH II	T-665967	20.12	38.50	208,113.75
168	BLK 03 LOT 24 & 26 SEC 10 PH III	T-732910/08	20.12	81.00	289,905.31
169	BLK 03 LOT 24 SEC 04 PH II	T-667098	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
170	BLK 03 LOT 25 SEC 04 PH II	T-667099	20.12	38.50	207,609.60
171	BLK 03 LOT 26 SEC 07 PH I	T-673009-A	20.12	38.50	191,905.43
172	BLK 03 LOT 27 SEC 02 PH II	T-666646	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
173	BLK 03 LOT 27 SEC 04 PH II	T-667101	20.12	38.50	206,339.54
174	BLK 03 LOT 31 SEC 03 PH II	T-666865	20.12	53.00	254,891.57
175	BLK 03 LOT 32 SEC 03 PH II	T-666866	20.12	38.50	200,425.49
176	BLK 03 LOT 32 SEC 08 PH III	T-732742	20.12	36.00	185,619.09
177	BLK 03 LOT 36 SEC 04 PH II	T-667110	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
178	BLK 03 LOT 36 SEC 08 PH III	T-732746	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
179	BLK 03 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 03 PH II	T-666872/874	20.12	77.00	266,247.50
180	BLK 03 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 07 PH I	T-673021/023	20.12	38.50	337,755.26
181	BLK 03 LOT 38 SEC 08 PH III	T-732748	20.12	36.00	173,332.74
182	BLK 04 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 02 PH II	T-666661/663	20.12	82.50	353,438.35
183	BLK 04 LOT 03 & 04 SEC 02 PH I	T-667457/456	20.12	77.00	320,915.47
184	BLK 04 LOT 03 SEC 08 PH III	T-732765	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
185	BLK 04 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 01 PH II	T-665977/979	20.12	77.00	320,760.66
186	BLK 04 LOT 05 SEC 03 PH II	T-666879	20.12	38.50	209,267.48
187	BLK 04 LOT 05 SEC 04 PH II	T-667119	20.12	38.50	197,807.80
188	BLK 04 LOT 05 SEC 05 PH I	T-671152	20.12	38.50	187,027.86
189	BLK 04 LOT 05 SEC 10 PH III	T-732915	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
190	BLK 04 LOT 07 SEC 02 PH II	T-666666	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
191	BLK 04 LOT 07 SEC 04 PH II	T-667121	20.12	38.50	197,807.80
192	BLK 04 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 08 PH I	T-673527A/525A	20.12	70.00	317,771.02
193	BLK 04 LOT 08 SEC 03 PH II	T-666882	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
194	BLK 04 LOT 08 SEC 09 PH I	T-673685A	20.12	38.50	191,225.59
195	BLK 04 LOT 09 SEC 04 PH II	T-667123	20.12	38.50	206,252.28
196	BLK 04 LOT 09 SEC 10 PH III	T-732919	20.12	36.00	192,534.71
197	BLK 04 LOT 10 SEC 36 PH I	T-616678	20.12	40.50	194,044.22
198	BLK 04 LOT 11 SEC 08 PH III	T-732773	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
199	BLK 04 LOT 11 SEC 10 PH III	T-732921	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
200	BLK 04 LOT 12 SEC 03 PH II	T-666886	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
201	BLK 04 LOT 12 SEC 04 PH II	T-667126	20.12	38.50	200,163.72
202	BLK 04 LOT 13 SEC 10 PH III	T-732923	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
203	BLK 04 LOT 14 SEC 02 PH II	T-666673	20.12	38.50	210,014.00
204	BLK 04 LOT 14 SEC 03 PH II	T-666888	20.12	39.60	214,552.37
205	BLK 04 LOT 15 SEC 02 PH II	T-666674	20.12	38.50	211,390.72
206	BLK 04 LOT 15 SEC 07 PH I	T-673038-A	20.12	38.50	191,822.56
207	BLK 04 LOT 15 SEC 09 PH I	T-673692-A	20.12	57.00	262,038.25
208	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 04 PH II	T-667130	20.12	38.50	166,545.30
209	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH I	T-672479-A	20.12	38.50	209,158.02
210	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH III	T-732926	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
211	BLK 04 LOT 17 SEC 02 PH II	T-666676	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
212	BLK 04 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH II	T-665990	20.12	38.50	212,592.15
213	BLK 04 LOT 19 SEC 10 PH III	T-732929	20.12	36.00	177,892.05
214	BLK 04 LOT 20 SEC 03 PH II	T-666894	20.12	38.50	210,120.65
215	BLK 04 LOT 20 SEC 04 PH II	T-667134	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
216	BLK 04 LOT 21 SEC 02 PH II	T-666680	20.12	38.50	210,120.65
217	BLK 04 LOT 22 SEC 04 PH II	T-667136	20.12	38.50	207,774.42
218	BLK 04 LOT 22 SEC 08 PH III	T-732784	20.12	36.00	185,619.09
219	BLK 04 LOT 23 SEC 03 PH II	T-666897	20.12	38.50	208,666.38
220	BLK 04 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673048-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
221	BLK 04 LOT 26 SEC 05 PH I	T-671173	20.12	37.00	176,121.32
222	BLK 04 LOT 29 SEC 03 PH II	T-666903	20.12	38.50	209,151.13
223	BLK 04 LOT 29 SEC 04 PH II	T-667143	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
224	BLK 04 LOT 32 SEC 04 PH II	T-667146	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
225	BLK 04 LOT 32 SEC 08 PH III	T-732794	20.12	36.00	185,880.86
226	BLK 04 LOT 34 SEC 02 PH II	T-666893	20.12	38.50	206,358.93
227	BLK 04 LOT 34 SEC 03 PH II	T-666908	20.12	38.50	188,070.24
228	BLK 04 LOT 34 SEC 06 PH III	T-732282	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
229	BLK 04 LOT 34 SEC 08 PH III	T-732796	20.12	36.00	182,506.95
230	BLK 04 LOT 35 SEC 03 PH II	T-666909	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
231	BLK 04 LOT 36 SEC 02 PH II	T-666695	20.12	38.50	186,323.28
232	BLK 04 LOT 36 SEC 04 PH II	T-667150	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
233	BLK 04 LOT 38 SEC 08 PH III	T-732800	20.12	36.00	188,450.08
234	BLK 04 LOT 39 SEC 08 PH III	T-732801	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
235	BLK 04 LOT 42 SEC 08 PH III	T-732804	20.12	36.00	182,448.77
236	BLK 04 LOT 43 SEC 08 PH III	T-732805	20.12	36.00	192,105.15
237	BLK 04 LOT 49 SEC 10 PH III	T-732959	20.12	36.00	173,184.40
238	BLK 04 LOT 50 SEC 08 PH III	T-732812	20.12	36.00	193,976.32
239	BLK 05 LOT 06 SEC 02 PH II	T-666705	20.12	38.50	209,946.14
240	BLK 05 LOT 06 SEC 09 PH I	T-673701	20.12	35.00	189,521.51
241	BLK 05 LOT 07 SEC 09 PH I	T-673702	20.12	35.00	189,521.51
242	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 04 PH II	T-667162	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
243	BLK 05 LOT 09 SEC 05 PH I	T-671194	20.12	38.50	187,155.46
244	BLK 05 LOT 09 SEC 08 PH I	T-673537-A	20.12	38.50	188,638.02
245	BLK 05 LOT 09 & 10 SEC 01 PH I	T-666008/07	20.12	110.00	419,408.25
246	BLK 05 LOT 10 SEC 03 PH II	T-666924	20.12	38.50	167,956.91
247	BLK 05 LOT 11 SEC 08 PH I	T-673539A	20.12	38.50	182,512.62
248	BLK 05 LOT 12 SEC 05 PH I	T-671197	20.12	38.50	213,285.27
249	BLK 05 LOT 12 SEC 07 PH I	T-673076-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
250	BLK 05 LOT 14 SEC 03 PH II	T-666928	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
251	BLK 05 LOT 14 SEC 35 PH I	T-615395	20.12	39.60	191,594.42
252	BLK 05 LOT 15 SEC 06 PH III	T-732301	20.12	36.00	190,602.40
253	BLK 05 LOT 16 SEC 09 PH I	T-673711	20.12	35.00	184,440.41
254	BLK 05 LOT 17 SEC 03 PH I	T-667773	20.12	38.50	210,304.86
255	BLK 05 LOT 17 SEC 06 PH III	T-732303	20.12	36.00	177,892.05
256	BLK 05 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-673080-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
257	BLK 05 LOT 18 SEC 06 PH III	T-732304	20.12	36.00	184,969.52
258	BLK 05 LOT 19 SEC 06 PH III	T-732305	20.12	36.00	193,481.86
259	BLK 05 LOT 19 SEC 09 PH I	T-673714-A	20.12	38.50	202,153.27
260	BLK 05 LOT 20 SEC 03 PH II	T-666934	20.12	38.50	211,099.88
261	BLK 05 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-673084-A	20.12	38.50	213,466.81
262	BLK 05 LOT 24 SEC 07 PH I	T-673087	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
263	BLK 05 LOT 24 SEC 10 PH III	T-782985	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
264	BLK 05 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673088-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
265	BLK 05 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672530	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
266	BLK 05 LOT 28 SEC 07 PH I	T-673091A	20.12	38.50	214,498.24
267	BLK 05 LOT 28 SEC 09 PH I	T-673723-A	20.12	35.00	186,857.78
268	BLK 05 LOT 28 SEC 10 PH III	T-732989	20.12	36.00	172,870.28
269	BLK 05 LOT 29 SEC 07 PH I	T-673092-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
270	BLK 05 LOT 30 & 32 SEC 05 PH I	T-671217/15	20.12	74.00	331,115.20
271	BLK 05 LOT 31 SEC 04 PH II	T-667185	20.12	38.50	208,065.28
272	BLK 05 LOT 31 SEC 07 PH I	T-673094-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
273	BLK 05 LOT 31 SEC 10 PH III	T-732992	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
274	BLK 05 LOT 32 SEC 02 PH II	T-666731	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
275	BLK 05 LOT 32 SEC 03 PH II	T-666946	20.12	38.50	184,972.64
276	BLK 05 LOT 32 SEC 04 PH I	T-670817	20.12	38.50	181,937.94
277	BLK 05 LOT 33 SEC 02 PH II	T-666732	20.12	39.00	191,854.41
278	BLK 05 LOT 33 SEC 04 PH II	T-667187	20.12	38.00	208,388.27
279	BLK 05 LOT 33 SEC 06 PH III	T-732319	20.12	36.00	184,668.97
280	BLK 05 LOT 36 SEC 03 PH II	T-666950	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
281	BLK 05 LOT 36 SEC 10 PH III	T-732997	20.12	36.00	174,589.23
282	BLK 05 LOT 39 SEC 06 PH III	T-732325	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
283	BLK 05 LOT 41 SEC 06 PH III	T-732327	20.12	36.00	188,479.16
284	BLK 05 LOT 42 SEC 10 PH III	T-733003	20.12	36.00	194,511.57
285	BLK 05 LOT 43 & 44 SEC 10 PH III	T-733004/005	20.12	72.00	272,224.49
286	BLK 05 LOT 49 SEC 06 PH III	T-732335	20.12	36.00	192,105.34
287	BLK 05 LOT 50 SEC 06 PH III	T-732336	20.12	36.00	177,892.05
288	BLK 05 LOT 51 SEC 06 PH III	T-732337	20.12	36.00	173,332.74
289	BLK 06 LOT 03 SEC 07 PH I	T-673106-A	20.12	38.50	214,120.17
290	BLK 06 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH II	T-666013	20.12	36.00	157,824.14
291	BLK 06 LOT 05 SEC 08 PH I	T-673546	20.12	49.00	238,118.25
292	BLK 06 LOT 06 SEC 05 PH I	T-671223	20.12	38.50	179,891.83
293	BLK 06 LOT 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-667514	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
294	BLK 06 LOT 09 SEC 02 PH II	T-666748	20.12	39.00	213,171.57
295	BLK 06 LOT 09 SEC 03 PH II	T-666963	20.12	38.50	169,345.26
296	BLK 06 LOT 09 SEC 10 PH III	T-733014	20.12	36.00	189,431.95
297	BLK 06 LOT 10 SEC 04 PH II	T-667204	20.12	38.50	210,479.37
298	BLK 06 LOT 12 SEC 04 PH II	T-667206	20.12	38.50	210,479.37
299	BLK 06 LOT 12 SEC 10 PH III	T-733017	20.12	36.00	193,123.14
300	BLK 06 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 06 PH I	T-673556A/54A	20.12	79.00	309,116.33
301	BLK 06 LOT 13 SEC 06 PH III	T-732355	20.12	38.50	192,202.10
302	BLK 06 LOT 15 & 17 SEC 03 PH II	T-666971/969	20.12	77.00	335,520.60
303	BLK 06 LOT 15 SEC 06 PH III	T-732357	20.12	36.00	194,511.57
304	BLK 06 LOT 16 SEC 04 PH II	T-667210	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
305	BLK 06 LOT 16 SEC 05 PH I	T-671233	20.12	38.00	208,666.72
306	BLK 06 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-673120-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
307	BLK 06 LOT 18 SEC 04 PH II	T-667212	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
308	BLK 06 LOT 19 SEC 06 PH III	T-732361	20.12	36.00	186,394.70
309	BLK 06 LOT 20 SEC 06 PH III	T-732362	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
310	BLK 06 LOT 21 SEC 06 PH I	T-672564-A	20.12	38.50	191,932.54
311	BLK 06 LOT 22 SEC 06 PH I	T-672565A	20.12	38.50	199,550.12
312	BLK 06 LOT 22 SEC 10 PH III	T-733027	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
313	BLK 06 LOT 23 & 25 SEC 03 PH II	T-666979/977	20.12	77.00	337,048.35
314	BLK 06 LOT 23 SEC 07 PH I	T-673126-A	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
315	BLK 06 LOT 24 SEC 03 PH II	T-666976	20.12	38.50	162,426.79
316	BLK 06 LOT 24 SEC 07 PH I	T-673127-A	20.12	38.50	211,953.41
317	BLK 06 LOT 25 SEC 06 PH III	T-732367	20.12	36.00	192,078.09
318	BLK 06 LOT 26 SEC 03 PH II	T-666980	20.12	38.50	211,681.57
319	BLK 06 LOT 26 SEC 06 PH III	T-732368	20.12	36.00	184,668.97
320	BLK 06 LOT 28 SEC 06 PH I	T-672571-A	20.12	38.50	189,073.68
321	BLK 06 LOT 29 SEC 06 PH I	T-672572	20.12	38.50	210,304.86
322	BLK 06 LOT 30 SEC 06 PH III	T-732372	20.12	36.00	194,511.57
323	BLK 06 LOT 31 SEC 06 PH III	T-732373	20.12	36.00	189,002.70
324	BLK 06 LOT 32 SEC 04 PH II	T-667226	20.12	38.50	188,323.28
325	BLK 06 LOT 32 SEC 06 PH III	T-732374	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
326	BLK 06 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 07 PH I	T-673140/142	20.12	77.00	337,458.65
327	BLK 06 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 06 PH III	732380/732382	20.12	72.00	307,028.35
328	BLK 07 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 08 PH I	T-673560/58-A	20.12	77.00	340,085.20
329	BLK 07 LOT 02 SEC 07 PH I	T-673145-A	20.12	38.50	205,657.66
330	BLK 07 LOT 06 SEC 06 PH III	T-732387	20.12	36.00	175,060.41
331	BLK 07 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 09 PH I	T-673764A/762A	20.12	103.50	419,320.20
332	BLK 07 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 09 PH I	T-673763-A/65-A	20.12	103.50	419,320.20
333	BLK 07 LOT 08 SEC 07 PH I	T-673151A	20.12	38.50	171,298.24
334	BLK 07 LOT 08 SEC 10 PH III	T-733039	20.12	36.00	175,060.41
335	BLK 07 LOT 09 SEC 06 PH III	T-732391	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
336	BLK 07 LOT 10 SEC 10 PH III	T-733041	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
337	BLK 07 LOT 12 SEC 10 PH III	T-733043	20.12	36.00	191,312.17
338	BLK 07 LOT 14 SEC 08 PH I	T-673570-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
339	BLK 07 LOT 14 SEC 09 PH I	T-673769A	20.12	38.50	175,383.37
340	BLK 07 LOT 16 SEC 02 PH I	T-667534	20.12	38.50	212,066.57
341	BLK 07 LOT 17 SEC 06 PH I	T-672600	20.12	38.50	192,902.05
342	BLK 07 LOT 17 SEC 08 PH I	T-673573	20.12	38.50	185,446.89
343	BLK 07 LOT 18 SEC 04 PH I	T-670883	20.12	38.50	205,286.78
344	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 04 PH III	T-693114	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
345	BLK 07 LOT 20 SEC 10 PH III	T-733051	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
346	BLK 07 LOT 21 SEC 06 PH I	T-672604-A	20.12	38.50	169,306.75
347	BLK 07 LOT 22 SEC 09 PH I	T-673777-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
348	BLK 07 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673168-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
349	BLK 07 LOT 25 SEC 09 PH I	T-673780	20.12	42.00	211,891.68
350	BLK 07 LOT 34 SEC 06 PH III	T-732416	20.12	36.00	154,321.74
351	BLK 08 LOT 01 & 03 SEC 08 PH I	T-673579-A/581	20.12	80.50	298,526.39
352	BLK 08 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 04 PH I	T-670910/670912	20.12	77.00	329,208.52
353	BLK 08 LOT 06 SEC 06 PH III	T-732428	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
354	BLK 08 LOT 06 SEC 08 PH I	T-673584-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
355	BLK 08 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 06 PH I	T-672633A/631A	20.12	77.00	287,013.89
356	BLK 08 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 07 PH I	T-673182A/180A	20.12	77.00	331,857.05
357	BLK 08 LOT 08 SEC 08 PH I	T-673586-A	20.12	38.50	201,676.19
358	BLK 08 LOT 09 & 11 SEC 01 PH II	T-666038/40	20.12	72.00	314,648.89
359	BLK 08 LOT 11 SEC 06 PH I	T-672634-A	20.12	38.50	205,631.79
360	BLK 08 LOT 11 SEC 07 PH I	T-673183-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
361	BLK 08 LOT 12 SEC 08 PH I	T-673590-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
362	BLK 08 LOT 13 SEC 06 PH I	T-672636-A	20.12	36.00	202,158.09
363	BLK 08 LOT 14 SEC 06 PH III	T-732436	20.12	36.00	193,956.93
364	BLK 08 LOT 16 SEC 07 PH I	T-673188-A	20.12	38.50	213,275.33
365	BLK 08 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-670436	20.12	38.50	209,051.38
366	BLK 08 LOT 20 SEC 02 PH I	T-667564	20.12	38.50	205,274.21
367	BLK 08 LOT 21 SEC 09 PH I	T-673802-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
368	BLK 08 LOT 23 SEC 09 PH I	T-673804A	20.12	38.50	211,734.74
369	BLK 08 LOT 25 SEC 09 PH I	T-673806-A	20.12	42.00	225,163.74
370	BLK 08 LOT 27 SEC 07 PH I	T-673199-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
371	BLK 08 LOT 28 SEC 06 PH III	T-732450	20.12	36.00	196,671.57
372	BLK 08 LOT 28 SEC 07 PH I	T-673200-A	20.12	38.50	171,298.24
373	BLK 08 LOT 29 SEC 07 PH I	T-673201-A	20.12	38.50	211,983.22
374	BLK 08 LOT 36 SEC 06 PH I	T-672659-A	20.12	38.50	203,147.03
375	BLK 08 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 07 PH I	T-673210/212	20.12	77.00	318,036.25
376	BLK 09 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 01 PH II	T-666049/047	20.12	80.00	343,981.83
377	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 01 PH II	T-666048/050	20.12	72.00	322,855.26
378	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-667577/579	20.12	77.60	339,612.35
379	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 09 PH I	T-673816A/814A	20.12	77.00	289,139.39
380	BLK 09 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 07 PH I	T-673222A/220A	20.12	77.00	325,276.72
381	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH II	T-666052	20.12	36.00	149,936.33
382	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 09 PH I	T-673818-A	20.12	38.50	175,383.37
383	BLK 09 LOT 13 SEC 01 PH II	T-666054	20.12	67.00	291,268.25
384	BLK 09 LOT 15 SEC 02 PH I	T-667585	20.12	38.00	210,571.57
385	BLK 09 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH I	T-672679A	20.12	38.50	193,287.05
386	BLK 09 LOT 16 SEC 09 PH I	T-673823A	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
387	BLK 09 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-673229-A	20.12	38.50	204,648.03
388	BLK 09 LOT 18 SEC 07 PH I	T-673230A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
389	BLK 09 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-670476	20.12	38.50	190,859.91
390	BLK 09 LOT 19 SEC 04 PH I	T-670964	20.12	38.50	202,153.27
391	BLK 09 LOT 19 SEC 05 PH I	T-671297	20.12	38.50	197,322.78
392	BLK 09 LOT 19 SEC 09 PH I	T-673826A	20.12	38.50	181,937.94
393	BLK 09 LOT 20 SEC 04 PH I	T-670965	20.12	38.50	202,153.27
394	BLK 09 LOT 20 SEC 05 PH I	T-671298	20.12	38.00	207,188.38
395	BLK 09 LOT 20 SEC 09 PH I	T-673827-A	20.12	38.50	212,798.24
396	BLK 09 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-673233-A	20.12	38.50	164,372.55
397	BLK 09 LOT 22 SEC 04 PH I	T-670967	20.12	38.50	177,172.44
398	BLK 09 LOT 22 SEC 05 PH I	T-671300	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
399	BLK 09 LOT 22 SEC 09 PH I	T-673829-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
400	BLK 09 LOT 23 SEC 09 PH I	T-673830-A	20.12	38.50	181,937.94
401	BLK 09 LOT 25 & 27 SEC 09 PH I	T-673832-A/34-A	20.12	78.50	326,323.25
402	BLK 09 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673237-A	20.12	38.50	197,322.78
403	BLK 09 LOT 26 SEC 06 PH I	T-672689A	20.12	38.50	175,520.23
404	BLK 09 LOT 27 SEC 07 PH I	T-673239A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
405	BLK 09 LOT 29 SEC 07 PH I	T-673241A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
406	BLK 09 LOT 31 SEC 07 PH I	T-673243-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
407	BLK 09 LOT 32 SEC 07 PH I	T-673244-A	20.12	38.50	212,013.04
408	BLK 09 LOT 35 SEC 06 PH I	T-672698-A	20.12	38.50	205,716.24
409	BLK 09 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 07 PH I	T-673249A/251A	20.12	77.00	321,838.25
410	BLK 10 LOT 03 & 04 PH I	T-673838A/839A	20.12	77.00	340,085.20
411	BLK 10 LOT 03 SEC 07 PH I	T-673255-A	20.12	38.50	171,298.24
412	BLK 10 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 06 PH I	T-672712-A/710A	20.12	77.00	303,746.02
413	BLK 10 LOT 11 SEC 07 PH I	T-673263-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
414	BLK 10 LOT 16 SEC 07 PH I	T-673268A	20.12	38.50	177,331.10
415	BLK 10 LOT 17 SEC 09 PH I	T-673852-A	20.12	38.50	213,702.72
416	BLK 10 LOT 18 SEC 09 PH I	T-673853A	20.12	38.50	189,508.09
417	BLK 10 LOT 20 SEC 09 PH I	T-673855-A	20.12	38.50	203,017.99
418	BLK 10 LOT 22 SEC 07 PH I	T-673274-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
419	BLK 10 LOT 26 & 28 SEC 09 PH I	T-673863A/861A	20.12	84.50	343,340.47
420	BLK 10 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672730-A	20.12	38.50	190,859.91
421	BLK 10 LOT 27 SEC 07 PH I	T-673279-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
422	BLK 10 LOT 30 SEC 03 PH I	T-670527	20.12	38.50	198,059.87
423	BLK 10 LOT 30 SEC 05 PH I	T-672253-A	20.12	38.50	212,013.04
424	BLK 10 LOT 31 SEC 05 PH I	T-672254-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
425	BLK 10 LOT 38 & 40 SEC 07 PH I	T-673292-A/90-A	20.12	77.00	321,838.25
426	BLK 11 LOT 01 & 02 SEC 07 PH I	T-673293A/94A	20.12	82.50	338,283.25
427	BLK 11 LOT 01 & 03 SEC 01 PH II	T-666077	20.12	72.00	245,092.79
428	BLK 11 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH II	T-666079	20.12	36.00	193,841.19
429	BLK 11 LOT 06 SEC 01 PH II	T-666080	20.12	36.00	203,174.17
430	BLK 11 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 07 PH I	T-673301A/99A	20.12	77.00	289,139.39
431	BLK 11 LOT 07 SEC 01 PH II	T-666081	20.12	36.00	179,978.36
432	BLK 11 LOT 08 SEC 01 PH II	T-666082	20.12	36.00	197,836.78
433	BLK 11 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH II	T-666084	20.12	36.00	179,359.12
434	BLK 11 LOT 13 SEC 09 PH I	T-673876-A	20.12	38.50	177,331.10
435	BLK 11 LOT 14 & 15 SEC 01 PH II	T-666089/088	20.12	70.00	307,865.16
436	BLK 11 LOT 14 SEC 07 PH I	T-672306-A	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
437	BLK 11 LOT 15 SEC 09 PH I	T-673878-A	20.12	38.50	175,383.37
438	BLK 11 LOT 16 SEC 09 PH I	T-673879-A	20.12	41.00	184,718.30
439	BLK 11 LOT 18 SEC 07 PH I	T-673310-A	20.12	38.50	192,200.63
440	BLK 11 LOT 22 SEC 05 PH I	T-672285-A	20.12	38.50	181,937.94
441	BLK 11 LOT 23 SEC 05 PH I	T-672286-A	20.12	38.50	202,153.27
442	BLK 11 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673317-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
443	BLK 11 LOT 28 SEC 06 PH I	T-672771-A	20.12	38.50	210,043.09
444	BLK 11 LOT 28 SEC 07 PH I	T-673320-A	20.12	38.50	202,153.27
445	BLK 12 LOT 06 SEC 01 PH II	T-666095	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
446	BLK 12 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 07 PH I	T-673341/39	20.12	77.00	301,428.89
447	BLK 12 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 07 PH I	T-673342A/40A	20.12	77.00	305,097.87
448	BLK 12 LOT 08 SEC 01 PH II	T-666097	20.12	36.00	194,318.27
449	BLK 12 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH II	T-666099	20.12	36.00	178,976.36
450	BLK 12 LOT 11 SEC 09 PH I	T-673891-A	20.12	39.00	169,465.74

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
451	BLK 12 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH II	T-666101	20.12	36.00	206,672.80
452	BLK 12 LOT 12 SEC 09 PH I	T-673892-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
453	BLK 12 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH II	T-666105	20.12	36.00	206,672.80
454	BLK 12 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-673349-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
455	BLK 12 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH II	T-666107	20.12	36.00	165,338.24
456	BLK 12 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	673353-A	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
457	BLK 12 LOT 23 SEC 07 PH I	T-673365-A	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
458	BLK 12 LOT 25 SEC 06 PH I	T-672808-A	20.12	38.50	210,304.86
459	BLK 12 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673357-A	20.12	38.50	213,526.44
460	BLK 12 LOT 26 SEC 07 PH I	T-673358	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
461	BLK 12 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672810-A	20.12	38.50	190,074.61
462	BLK 12 LOT 28 SEC 09 PH I	T-673908A	20.12	41.00	209,200.68
463	BLK 12 LOT 30 SEC 06 PH I	T-672813-A	20.12	38.50	190,330.17
464	BLK 12 LOT 33 SEC 03 PH I	T-670610	20.12	38.50	212,066.57
465	BLK 12 LOT 33 SEC 05 PH I	T-672336 A	20.12	35.00	202,492.27
466	BLK 12 LOT 33 SEC 06 PH I	T-672816-A	20.12	38.50	207,829.79
467	BLK 12 LOT 34 SEC 07 PH I	T-673366-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
468	BLK 13 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH II	T-666117	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
469	BLK 13 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 07 PH I	T-673382A/380A	20.12	76.00	266,004.39
470	BLK 13 LOT 08 SEC 01 PH II	T-666120	20.12	36.00	157,800.29
471	BLK 13 LOT 12 SEC 07 PH I	T-673384-A	20.12	38.00	213,012.80
472	BLK 13 LOT 12 SEC 09 PH I	T-673920-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
473	BLK 13 LOT 13 SEC 07 PH I	T-673385-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
474	BLK 13 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-666126	20.12	36.00	165,338.24
475	BLK 13 LOT 14 SEC 09 PH I	T-673922	20.12	38.50	212,711.42
476	BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 01 PH II	T-666127	20.12	36.00	157,959.32
477	BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 03 PH I	T-670632	20.12	38.50	190,650.50
478	BLK 13 LOT 15 SEC 07 PH I	T-673787A	20.12	38.50	192,710.52
479	BLK 13 LOT 17 SEC 01 PH II	T-666129	20.12	36.00	165,338.24
480	BLK 13 LOT 17 SEC 03 PH I	T-670634	20.12	38.50	212,066.57
481	BLK 13 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-673389-A	20.12	38.50	213,493.99
482	BLK 13 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-670636	20.12	38.50	175,520.23
483	BLK 13 LOT 19 SEC 07 PH I	T-673391-A	20.12	38.50	175,383.37
484	BLK 13 LOT 20 SEC 06 PH I	T-672843-A	20.12	35.00	181,441.41
485	BLK 13 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-673393-A	20.12	38.50	199,986.51
486	BLK 13 LOT 22 SEC 01 PH II	T-666134	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
487	BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 01 PH II	T-666135	20.12	36.00	165,338.24
488	BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 03 PH I	T-670640	20.12	38.50	208,615.09
489	BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 06 PH I	T-672846-A	20.12	38.50	209,633.09
490	BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 07 PH I	T-673395	20.12	38.50	194,870.41
491	BLK 13 LOT 23 SEC 09 PH I	T-673931-A	20.12	38.50	210,919.72
492	BLK 13 LOT 25 SEC 01 PH II	T-666137	20.12	36.00	206,672.80
493	BLK 13 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-673397A	20.12	38.50	194,870.41
494	BLK 13 LOT 26 SEC 01 PH II	T-666138	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
495	BLK 13 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH II	T-666139	20.12	36.00	174,886.44
496	BLK 13 LOT 27 SEC 03 PH I	T-670644	20.12	38.50	188,078.96
497	BLK 13 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH II	T-666140	20.12	36.00	168,678.37
498	BLK 13 LOT 31 SEC 01 PH II	T-666143	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
499	BLK 13 LOT 35 SEC 07 PH I	T-673407A	20.12	38.50	192,415.32
500	BLK 13 LOT 37 & 39 SEC 03 PH I	T-670654/656	20.12	77.00	336,183.01
501	BLK 14 LOT 02/04/06 SEC 01 PH I	666147/149	20.12	79.00	543,766.40
502	BLK 14 LOT 03 SEC 07 PH I	T-673415A	20.12	38.50	190,340.00
503	BLK 14 LOT 05 & 06 SEC 03 PH I	T-670663/662	20.12	82.50	351,562.88
504	BLK 14 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 07 PH I	T-673419-A/421A	20.12	77.00	321,838.25
505	BLK 14 LOT 15 SEC 07 PH I	T-673427	20.12	38.50	212,711.42
506	BLK 14 LOT 17 SEC 03 PH I	T-670674	20.12	38.50	195,022.48
507	BLK 14 LOT 21 SEC 03 PH I	T-670678	20.12	38.50	190,094.58
508	BLK 14 LOT 21 SEC 06 PH I	T-672884-A	20.12	38.50	212,066.57
509	BLK 14 LOT 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-673433-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
510	BLK 14 LOT 23 SEC 03 PH I	T-670680	20.12	38.50	190,094.58
511	BLK 14 LOT 23 SEC 07 PH I	T-673435-A	20.12	38.50	214,507.80
512	BLK 14 LOT 25 SEC 03 PH I	T-670682	20.12	38.50	211,507.06
513	BLK 14 LOT 26 & 28 SEC 07 PH I	T-673438A/440A	20.12	76.00	300,755.75
514	BLK 14 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH I	T-672890A	20.12	38.50	190,513.41
515	BLK 14 LOT 33 SEC 03 PH I	T-670690	20.12	38.50	212,066.57
516	BLK 14 LOT 35 SEC 07 PH I	T-672447	20.12	38.50	184,972.79
517	BLK 15 LOT 06 SEC 01 PH II	T-666189	20.12	36.00	206,672.80
518	BLK 15 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH II	T-666193	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
519	BLK 15 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH II	T-666195	20.12	36.00	149,936.33
520	BLK 15 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-666197	20.12	36.00	149,936.33
521	BLK 15 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH II	T-666199	20.12	36.00	163,385.26
522	BLK 15 LOT 18 & 20 SEC 01 PH II	T-666201/203	20.12	72.00	306,168.25
523	BLK 15 LOT 22 & 24 SEC 01 PH II	T-666205/207	20.12	72.00	306,168.25
524	BLK 15 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-666211	20.12	36.00	184,234.34
525	BLK 15 LOT 39 & 41 SEC 01 PH II	T-666224/222	20.12	72.00	305,102.66
526	BLK 16 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 01 PH II	T-666227/229	20.12	84.00	272,185.26
527	BLK 16 LOT 09 SEC 01 PH II	T-666234	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
528	BLK 16 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-666239	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
529	BLK 16 LOT 15 SEC 01 PH II	T-666240	20.12	35.00	172,204.44
530	BLK 16 LOT 34 SEC 01 PH II	T-666259	20.12	36.00	195,182.99
531	BLK 17 LOT 07 SEC 01 PH II	T-666274	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
532	BLK 17 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH II	T-666277	20.12	36.00	206,672.80
533	BLK 17 LOT 19 SEC 01 PH II	T-666286	20.12	57.00	266,161.68
534	BLK 17 LOT 24 SEC 01 PH II	T-666291	20.12	36.00	194,318.27
535	BLK 18 LOT 03 SEC 01 PH II	T-666304	20.12	46.00	180,113.62
536	BLK 20 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH II	T-666316	20.12	36.00	203,343.14
537	BLK 20 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-666321	20.12	36.00	206,672.80
538	BLK 20 LOT 17 SEC 01 PH II	T-666324	20.12	36.00	159,509.85
539	BLK 20 LOT 22 SEC 01 PH II	T-666329	20.12	36.00	206,672.80
540	BLK 20 LOT 26 SEC 01 PH II	T-666333	20.12	36.05	192,151.51
541	BLK 21 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH II	T-666352	20.12	36.00	202,786.54
542	BLK 21 LOT 15 SEC 01 PH II	T-666356	20.12	36.00	198,085.26
543	BLK 21 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH II	T-666357	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
544	BLK 21 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH II	T-666368	20.12	36.00	204,883.73
545	BLK 21 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH II	T-666369	20.12	36.00	177,704.24
546	BLK 21 LOT 30 SEC 01 PH II	T-666371	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
547	BLK 21 LOT 34 SEC 01 PH II	T-666375	20.12	36.00	189,199.55
548	BLK 21 LOT 37 SEC 01 PH II	T-666378	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
549	BLK 21 LOT 38 SEC 01 PH II	T-666379	20.12	36.00	199,268.04
550	BLK 21 LOT 39 SEC 01 PH II	T-666380	20.12	36.00	201,612.66
551	BLK 22 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 01 PH II	T-666388/390	20.12	72.00	305,267.44
552	BLK 22 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH II	T-666411	20.12	36.00	189,199.55
553	BLK 22 LOT 30 SEC 01 PH II	T-666413	20.12	36.00	189,348.63
554	BLK 22 LOT 34 SEC 01 PH II	T-666417	20.12	36.00	194,318.27
555	BLK 22 LOT 38 SEC 01 PH II	T-666421	20.12	36.00	206,672.80
556	BLK 23 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 01 PH II	T-666427	20.12	72.00	255,700.41
557	BLK 23 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH II	T-666441	20.12	36.00	192,151.51
558	BLK 23 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH II	T-666443	20.12	36.00	201,305.59
559	BLK 23 LOT 19 SEC 01 PH II	T-666444	20.12	36.00	165,338.24
560	BLK 23 LOT 23 SEC 01 PH II	T-666448	20.12	36.00	186,853.88
561	BLK 24 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH II	T-666461	20.12	36.00	158,818.07
562	BLK 24 LOT 17 & 18 SEC 01 PH II	T-666466/467	20.12	88.00	289,520.51
563	BLK 25 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH II	T-666472	20.12	36.00	193,930.64
564	BLK 25 LOT 06 SEC 01 PH II	T-666473	20.12	36.00	154,166.49
565	BLK 25 LOT 08 SEC 01 PH II	T-666475	20.12	36.00	165,338.24
566	BLK 25 LOT 09 SEC 01 PH II	T-666476	20.12	82.00	335,968.25
567	BLK 26 LOT 10 & 12 SEC 01 PH II	T-668491	20.12	72.00	259,532.16
568	BLK 26 LOT 14 & 16 SEC 01 PH II	T-666493/95	20.12	72.00	320,317.60
569	BLK 27 LOT 03 SEC 01 PH II	T-666507	20.12	38.50	171,298.24
570	BLK 27 LOT 05 & 06 SEC 01 PH II	T-666509/510	20.12	86.50	367,625.20
571	BLK 27 LOT 08 & 10 SEC 01 PH II	T-666512/14	20.12	80.00	330,008.25
572	BLK 27 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH II	T-666516	20.12	40.00	204,071.51
573	BLK 27 LOT 22 SEC 01 PH II	T-666526	20.12	40.00	174,874.24
574	BLK 27 LOT 24 SEC 01 PH II	T-666528	20.12	40.00	216,942.88
575	BLK 29 LOT 03 & 04 SEC 01 PH II	T-666534/33	20.12	77.00	339,315.20
	CAPITOL HILLS EXEC SUBD				
	Bo. Lapidario Trece Martires City, Cavite				
576	BLK 04 LOT 15	T-28883	24.50	39.00	257,994.26
577	BLK 04 LOT 27	T-28895	24.50	39.00	270,137.25
578	BLK 04 LOT 28	T-28896	24.50	39.00	270,267.50
579	BLK 04 LOT 30	T-28898	24.50	39.00	262,466.47
580	BLK 04 LOT 41	T-28909	24.50	39.00	260,194.18
581	BLK 05 LOT 06	T-28921	24.50	39.00	244,534.21
582	BLK 05 LOT 11	T-28926	24.50	39.00	264,738.75
583	BLK 05 LOT 13	T-28928	24.50	39.00	281,132.79
584	BLK 05 LOT 17	T-28932	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
585	BLK 05 LOT 28	T-28943	24.50	39.00	259,470.52
586	BLK 05 LOT 33	T-28948	24.50	39.00	248,166.97
587	BLK 05 LOT 43	T-289958	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
588	BLK 06 LOT 16	T-28979	24.50	39.00	270,614.86
589	BLK 06 LOT 29	T-28992	24.50	39.00	250,484.99
590	BLK 06 LOT 34	T-28997	24.50	39.00	244,534.21
591	BLK 06 LOT 35	T-28998	24.50	39.00	244,534.21
592	BLK 06 LOT 36	T-28999	24.50	39.00	257,498.72
593	BLK 06 LOT 39	T-29002	24.50	39.00	258,081.10
594	BLK 07 LOT 13	T-29025	24.50	39.00	272,607.18
595	BLK 07 LOT 18	T-29030	24.50	39.00	262,205.95
596	BLK 07 LOT 26	T-29038	24.50	69.00	372,686.22
597	BLK 07 LOT 36	T-29048	24.50	39.00	260,396.80
598	BLK 08 LOT 11	T-29073	24.50	39.00	261,684.92
599	BLK 08 LOT 17	T-29079	24.50	39.00	256,011.43
600	BLK 08 LOT 22	T-29084	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
601	BLK 08 LOT 47	T-29109	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
602	BLK 08 LOT 48	T-29110	24.50	39.00	251,770.79
603	BLK 08 LOT 49	T-29111	24.50	39.00	244,534.21
604	BLK 09 LOT 15	T-29129	24.50	39.00	275,529.33
605	BLK 09 LOT 17	T-29131	24.50	39.00	256,648.26
606	BLK 09 LOT 24	T-29138	24.50	39.00	259,919.19
607	BLK 09 LOT 26	T-29140	24.50	39.00	250,569.52
608	BLK 09 LOT 34	T-29148	24.50	39.00	261,019.15
609	BLK 09 LOT 44	T-29158	24.50	39.00	266,142.65
610	BLK 09 LOT 49	T-29163	24.50	39.00	248,166.97
611	BLK 09 LOT 50	T-29164	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
612	BLK 10 LOT 25	T-29193	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
613	BLK 10 LOT 26	T-29194	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
614	BLK 10 LOT 39	T-29207	24.50	39.00	268,429.41
615	BLK 11 LOT 52	T-29275	24.50	39.00	270,354.34
616	BLK 13 LOT 21	T-29299	24.50	39.00	262,596.72
617	BLK 14 LOT 08	T-29340	24.50	53.00	315,921.70
618	BLK 14 LOT 21	T-29353	24.50	53.00	315,921.70
619	BLK 14 LOT 31	T-29363	24.50	39.00	261,684.92
620	BLK 25 LOT 12 & 13	T-18551/15737	60.00	150.00	660,422.00

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
621	BLK 36 LOT 51	T-9688	30.00	75.00	392,469.80
622	BLK 37 LOT 10	T-22003	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
623	BLK 38 LOT 31	T-22099	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
624	BLK 38 LOT 50	T-22118	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
625	BLK 38 LOT 69	T-22137	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
626	BLK 39 LOT 27	T-22170	24.50	39.00	265,968.97
627	BLK 39 LOT 29	T-22172	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
628	BLK 45 LOT 14	T-21649	24.50	39.00	286,527.52
629	BLK 45 LOT 30	T-21665	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
630	BLK 45 LOT 31	T-21666	24.50	39.00	266,982.10
631	BLK 45 LOT 35	T-21670	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
632	BLK 45 LOT 38	T-21673	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
633	BLK 45 LOT 42	T-21677	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
634	BLK 45 LOT 48	T-21683	24.50	39.00	269,746.47
635	BLK 47 LOT 17	T-22290	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
636	BLK 47 LOT 32	T-22305	24.50	39.00	269,746.47
637	BLK 47 LOT 34	T-22307	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
638	BLK 47 LOT 36	T-22309	24.50	39.00	265,317.87
639	BLK 47 LOT 37	T-22310	24.50	39.00	266,793.94
640	BLK 48 LOT 23 & 24	22342/343	24.50	78.00	540,404.75
641	BLK 48 LOT 27	T-22346	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
642	BLK 48 LOT 33	T-22352	24.50	39.00	251,466.86
643	BLK 48 LOT 46	T-22365	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
644	BLK 48 LOT 52	T-22371	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
645	BLK 48 LOT 55	T-22374	24.50	39.00	254,506.22
646	BLK 49 LOT 06	T-21694	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
647	BLK 49 LOT 14	T-21702	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
648	BLK 49 LOT 21	T-21709	24.50	39.00	259,687.62
649	BLK 49 LOT 31	T-21719	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
650	BLK 49 LOT 37	T-21725	24.50	39.00	246,024.95
651	BLK 49 LOT 38	T-21726	24.50	62.00	349,498.21
652	BLK 49 LOT 46	T-21734	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
653	BLK 50 LOT 10	T-21771	24.50	39.00	266,938.68
654	BLK 50 LOT 11	T-21772	24.50	39.00	266,924.20
655	BLK 50 LOT 18	T-21779	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
656	BLK 50 LOT 28	T-21789	24.50	39.00	270,701.70
657	BLK 50 LOT 36	T-21797	24.50	39.00	249,556.40
658	BLK 50 LOT 56	T-21817	24.50	39.00	269,746.47
659	BLK 50 LOT 72	T-21833	24.50	39.00	245,677.59
660	BLK 50 LOT 81	T-21842	24.50	39.00	258,767.12
	CARISSA HOMES TANZA				
	Bo. Bagtas Tanza Cavite				
661	BLK 03 LOT 10 PH3A	T-884349	20.62	35.00	141,082.88
662	BLK 05 LOT 09 PH3A	T-887183	20.62	35.00	140,253.68
663	BLK 147 LOT 26 PH7	T-911933	18.00	33.00	147,446.92
664	BLK 15 LOT 05 PH2	T-980410	20.62	35.00	172,035.00
665	BLK 17 LOT 22 PH4	T-694694	20.62	61.00	196,828.90
666	BLK 18 LOT 20 PH4	T-883657	20.62	61.00	221,432.52
667	BLK 20 LOT 19 PH3B	T-884354	20.62	35.00	141,082.88
668	BLK 25 LOT 11 PH5	T-742182	20.00	54.00	249,086.42
669	BLK 28 LOT 22 PH5	T-726315	20.62	35.00	158,068.24
670	BLK 40 LOT 11 PH6	T-726782	18.00	33.00	153,550.97
671	BLK 40 LOT 28 PH6	T-1035481	18.00	33.00	162,393.27
672	BLK 42 LOT 10 PH3B	T-742206	20.62	35.00	157,729.42
673	BLK 47 LOT 06 PH3	T-980407	20.62	35.00	156,833.88
674	BLK 60 LOT 03 PH1A	T-953378	20.62	35.00	159,719.21
675	BLK 72 LOT 06 PH2	T-1036909	20.62	35.00	158,228.82
676	BLK 73 LOT 48 PH6	T-913090	18.00	33.00	144,952.49
677	BLK 06 LOT 22 PH3	T-944537	20.62	69.00	184,292.15
678	BLK 34 LOT 27 PH4	T-694874	0.00	35.00	91,350.00
	CH LA TRINIDAD				
	Bo. Quintana Trece Martires City				
679	BLK 72 LOT 17 PH3	T-62954	25.00	70.00	258,422.50
	CITIHOMES RESORTVILLE				
	Bo. Lancaan Dasmarinas, Cavite				
680	BLK 02 LOT 25 PH V	T-594206	20.00	52.50	264,790.17
681	BLK 05 LOT 04 PH V	T-594262	20.00	35.00	188,965.92
682	BLK 10 LOT 23 PH V	T-594369	20.00	35.00	197,198.34
683	BLK 12 LOT 10 PH I	T-458120	36.00	76.00	422,264.45
684	BLK 17 LOT 43 PH I	T-457755	24.00	38.00	201,147.08
685	BLK 18 LOT 36 PH V	T-594710	20.00	35.00	197,082.66
686	BLK 20 LOT 11 PH V	T-594763	20.00	35.00	182,015.60
687	BLK 20 LOT 32 PH V	T-594784	20.00	35.00	159,883.88
688	BLK 22 LOT 19 PH V	T-594859	20.00	52.50	151,200.00
689	BLK 22 LOT 23 PH V	T-594363	36.00	78.00	178,950.13
690	BLK 23 LOT 07 PH I	T-582168	24.00	38.00	173,350.49
691	BLK 23 LOT 09 PH V	T-594896	20.00	35.00	160,191.02
692	BLK 24 LOT 01 PH V	T-594935	20.00	53.50	249,610.33
693	BLK 24 LOT 10 PH V	T-594944	20.00	35.00	182,767.51
694	BLK 26 LOT 01 PH V	T-595019	20.00	50.50	236,134.37
695	BLK 29A LOT 08 PH V	T-592147	20.00	35.00	181,292.61
696	BLK 36 LOT 22 PH V	T-592073	20.00	50.50	276,572.11
697	BLK 38 LOT 02 PH I	T-457834	36.00	74.00	374,959.57
698	BLK 38 LOT 03 PH I	T-457835	36.00	76.00	393,746.71
699	BLK 39 LOT 30 PH I	T-457924	36.00	76.00	367,887.40
700	BLK 41 LOT 21B PH I	T-683479	24.00	38.00	198,672.61
701	BLK 41 LOT 33A PH I	T-683502	24.00	38.00	199,723.50
702	BLK 42 LOT 09 PH V	T-591653	20.00	35.00	188,850.24
703	BLK 49 LOT 100 PH V	T-591898	20.00	52.50	262,747.79
704	BLK 49 LOT 25 PH V	T-591823	20.00	35.00	181,292.61
705	BLK 49 LOT 44 PH V	T-591842	20.00	69.00	310,267.79
706	BLK 49 LOT 52 PH V	T-591850	20.00	35.00	182,015.60
707	BLK 49 LOT 67 PH V	T-591865	20.00	35.00	182,015.60
708	BLK 49 LOT 86 PH V	T-591884	20.00	35.00	179,075.45
709	BLK 50 LOT 71 PH V	T-591579	20.00	52.50	246,716.97
710	BLK 50 LOT 72 PH V	T-591580	20.00	52.50	246,730.33
711	BLK 52 LOT 88 PH V	T-588135	20.00	52.50	238,554.61
712	BLK 61 LOT 23 PH V	T-591367	20.00	35.00	181,292.61
713	BLK 61 LOT 27 PH V	T-591371	20.00	35.00	181,928.84
714	BLK 61 LOT 29 PH V	T-591373	20.00	35.00	163,814.04
715	BLK 61 LOT 30 PH V	T-591374	20.00	61.00	271,210.33
716	BLK 62 LOT 16 PH V	T-591391	20.00	52.50	279,553.44
717	BLK 66 LOT 25 PH V	T-591493	20.00	35.00	197,111.58
718	BLK 66 LOT 35 PH V	T-591503	20.00	35.00	186,555.96
719	BLK 73 LOT 13 PH I	T-458235	36.00	76.00	381,272.52
720	BLK 77 LOT 48 PH I	T-658623	30.00	47.50	248,617.16
721	BLK 81 LOT 13A PH I	T-683588	24.00	38.00	200,051.77
	CITIHOMES BUROL				
	Bo. Burol Dasmarinas, Cavite				
722	BLK 73 LOT 24	T-355103	36.00	76.00	340,455.33
	LANDMASS PARK SUBD				
	Bo. Biga Tanza Cavite				
723	BLK 10 LOT 30	T-1048016	21.60	40.00	231,802.49
	MABUHAY CITY-PALIPARAN				
	Bo. Paliparan Dasmarinas Cavite				
724	BLK 143 LOT 10 PH 1	T-718781	20.00	36.00	210,686.84
725	BLK 153 LOT 12 PH I	T-724116	20.00	36.00	210,686.84
726	BLK 182 LOT 05 PH I	T-724850	25.00	63.00	306,035.10
	MBH 2000-SALAWAG				
	Bo. Salawag Dasmarinas Cavite				
727	BLK 05 LOT 25 PH 5	T-613122	25.00	43.00	199,114.12
728	BLK 16 LOT 15 PH 5	T-613362	25.00	43.00	200,364.44
729	BLK 24 LOT 07 PH 5	T-613551	25.00	67.00	256,639.36
730	BLK 27 LOT 18 PH 5	T-613591	25.00	43.00	189,486.70
731	BLK 29 LOT 12 PH 5	T-613646	25.00	43.00	202,105.26
732	BLK 31 LOT 13 PH 5	T-633744	25.00	43.00	202,086.02
733	BLK 47 LOT 15 PH V	T-634229	25.00	43.00	203,721.05
734	BLK 48 LOT 03 PH 5	T-634253	25.00	43.00	189,486.70
735	BLK 57 LOT 01 PH 5	T-634397	25.00	43.00	212,779.72
736	BLK 59 LOT 23 PH 5	T-634465	25.00	43.00	201,210.80
737	BLK 63 LOT 27 PH 5	T-634600	25.00	91.00	331,912.16
738	BLK 69 LOT 25 PH 5	T-634747	25.00	43.00	201,210.80
739	BLK 72 LOT 11 PH 5	T-634846	25.00	43.00	203,721.05
740	BLK 73 LOT 19 PH 5	T-634867	25.00	43.00	197,786.86
741	BLK 78 LOT 10 PH 5	T-635016	25.00	43.00	197,084.76
742	BLK 82 LOT 05 PH 5	T-635127	25.00	43.00	203,721.05
	PAG-IBIG CITY SUBD				
	Bo. Molino Bacoor Cavite				
743	BLK 09 LOT 17 PH I	T-511611	35.00	145.00	567,286.41
744	BLK 15 LOT 46 PH2	T-533026	38.00	112.50	475,106.64
	RANCHO IMPERIAL				
	Bo. Tartaria Silang Cavite				
745	BLK 05 LOT 14	T-625131	20.74	35.00	176,651.59
746	BLK 58 LOT 09	T-628201	20.74	45.00	218,986.80
747	BLK 68 LOT 16	T-628510	20.74	35.00	154,621.22
	SAN MARINO				
	Bo. Salawag Dasmarinas Cavite				
748	BLK 01 LOT 07 PH 3 WEST	T-448944	20.62	35.00	175,700.49
749	BLK 04 LOT 08 PH 3 WEST	T-448699	20.62	35.00	184,105.94
750	BLK 06 LOT 38 PH I WEST	T-1048017	20.62	35.00	184,105.94
751	BLK 14 LOT 36 PH 3 WEST	T-1012161	20.62	35.00	182,905.16
752	BLK 14 LOT 85 PH 2 SOUTH	T-963380	25.00	50.00	272,926.00
753	BLK 19 LOT 20 PH 1 & 2 WEST	T-438567	20.62	35.00	187,257.97
754	BLK 23 LOT 33 CENTRAL	T-1001923	28.00	50.00	232,314.06
755	BLK 24 LOT 20 CENTRAL	T-1048013	28.00	50.00	249,170.40
756	BLK 11 LOT 39 PH 3 WEST	T-987841	20.62	35.00	202,949.99
	SUNNY BROOKE				
	Bo. Elang Gen Trias Cavite				
757	BLK 01 LOT 07 SEC 04 PH II	T-749453	20.12	35.00	199,449.30
758	BLK 01 LOT 08 SEC 06 PH I	T-690444	20.12	35.00	184,708.22
759	BLK 01 LOT 09 SEC 07 PH I	T-690519	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
760	BLK 01 LOT 11 SEC 07 PH I	T-690521	20.12	35.00	185,172.07

	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
761	BLK 01 LOT 11 SEC 11 PH I	T-691295	20.12	35.00	178,165.20
762	BLK 01 LOT 12 SEC 09 PH I	T-690900	20.12	35.00	190,024.98
763	BLK 01 LOT 13 & 15 SEC 06 PH I	T-690449/451	20.12	70.00	296,243.95
764	BLK 01 LOT 14 SEC 05 PH I	T-690219	20.12	35.00	167,646.61
765	BLK 01 LOT 14 SEC 08 PH I	T-690757	20.12	35.00	169,404.78
766	BLK 01 LOT 15 SEC 04 PH II	T-749461	20.12	35.00	154,701.68
767	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH I	T-690452	20.12	35.00	160,371.61
768	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH II	T-750025	20.12	35.00	179,414.04
769	BLK 01 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH I	T-690993	20.12	35.00	156,735.51
770	BLK 01 LOT 18 SEC 05 PH II	T-749751	20.12	35.00	182,455.44
771	BLK 01 LOT 18 SEC 10 PH I	T-690995	20.12	35.00	179,014.75
772	BLK 01 LOT 19 & 21 SEC 07 PH I	T-690531/29	20.12	70.00	269,724.56
773	BLK 01 LOT 19 SEC 13 PH I	T-691817	20.12	35.00	160,390.30
774	BLK 01 LOT 20 SEC 05 PH II	T-749753	20.12	35.00	169,748.03
775	BLK 02 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 13 PH I	T-691829/831	20.12	75.00	269,256.02
776	BLK 02 LOT 09 SEC 07 PH I	T-690541	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
777	BLK 02 LOT 12 SEC 07 PH I	T-690544	20.12	35.00	187,482.68
778	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 11 PH I	T-691321	20.12	35.00	178,165.20
779	BLK 02 LOT 13 SEC 13 PH I	T-691837	20.12	35.00	161,368.98
780	BLK 02 LOT 15 SEC 09 PH I	T-690927	20.12	35.00	188,147.45
781	BLK 02 LOT 15 SEC 13 PH I	T-691839	20.12	35.00	180,280.58
782	BLK 02 LOT 21 SEC 1A PH I	T-688943	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
783	BLK 02 LOT 22 SEC 05 PH II	T-749778	20.12	35.00	179,702.89
784	BLK 02 LOT 24 SEC 01 PH I	T-688227	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
785	BLK 02 LOT 24 SEC 1A PH I	T-688946	20.12	35.00	185,807.26
786	BLK 02 LOT 28 SEC 05 PH II	T-749784	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
787	BLK 02 LOT 30 SEC 05 PH II	T-749786	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
788	BLK 02 LOT 31 SEC 03 PH I	T-689669	20.12	35.00	195,546.82
789	BLK 02 LOT 32 SEC 04 PH II	T-749530	20.12	35.00	184,621.80
790	BLK 02 LOT 33 SEC 03 PH I	T-689671	20.12	35.00	172,123.01
791	BLK 03 LOT 03 & 04 SEC 04 PH I	T-689957/58	20.12	75.00	287,273.39
792	BLK 03 LOT 04 SEC 06 PH II	T-750096	20.12	35.00	180,280.58
793	BLK 03 LOT 05 SEC 13 PH I	T-691852	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
794	BLK 03 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 07 PH I	T-690562	20.12	70.00	264,373.35
795	BLK 03 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 09 PH I	T-690943/945	20.12	70.00	269,857.08
796	BLK 03 LOT 06 SEC 02 PH I	T-689028	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
797	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 01 PH I	T-688238/240	20.12	70.00	297,190.32
798	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 10 PH I	T-691029/027	20.12	70.00	250,339.50
799	BLK 03 LOT 07 SEC 05 PH II	T-749799	20.12	35.00	158,884.04
800	BLK 03 LOT 10 SEC 02 PH I	T-689032	20.12	35.00	189,774.89
801	BLK 03 LOT 10 SEC 08 PH I	T-690811	20.12	35.00	154,701.68
802	BLK 03 LOT 10 SEC 09 PH I	T-690947	20.12	35.00	212,993.22
803	BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 04 PH I	T-689965	20.12	35.00	187,161.96
804	BLK 03 LOT 11 SEC 08 PH I	T-690812	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
805	BLK 03 LOT 13 SEC 07 PH I	T-690567	20.12	35.00	197,406.36
806	BLK 03 LOT 14 SEC 04 PH I	T-689968	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
807	BLK 03 LOT 14 SEC 11 PH I	T-691344	20.12	35.00	155,512.16
808	BLK 03 LOT 15 SEC 08 PH I	T-690816	20.12	35.00	179,014.75
809	BLK 03 LOT 15 SEC 10 PH I	T-691035	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
810	BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 01A PH I	T-688967	20.12	35.00	170,420.72
811	BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 06 PH II	T-750108	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
812	BLK 03 LOT 16 SEC 11 PH I	T-691346	20.12	35.00	158,643.62
813	BLK 03 LOT 17 SEC 07 PH I	T-690571	20.12	35.00	187,482.68
814	BLK 03 LOT 18 & 20 SEC 09 PH I	T-690957/955	20.12	71.00	274,673.03
815	BLK 03 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-689697	20.12	35.00	197,406.36
816	BLK 03 LOT 20 SEC 01 PH I	T-688251	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
817	BLK 03 LOT 22 SEC 01A PH I	T-688973	20.12	35.00	159,409.66
818	BLK 03 LOT 22 SEC 05 PH II	T-749814	20.12	35.00	186,507.81
819	BLK 03 LOT 23 SEC 05 PH I	T-749815	20.12	35.00	170,907.77
820	BLK 03 LOT 23 SEC 1A PH I	T-688974	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
821	BLK 04 LOT 01 SEC 08 PH I	T-750632	20.12	35.00	200,515.15
822	BLK 04 LOT 02 SEC 03 PH I	T-749340	20.12	50.00	241,925.16
823	BLK 04 LOT 03 SEC 08 PH II	T-750634	20.12	35.00	179,600.94
824	BLK 04 LOT 04 SEC 05 PH II	T-749824	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
825	BLK 04 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 08 PH I	T-690837/835	20.12	70.00	295,311.33
826	BLK 04 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 07 PH I	T-690584/690582	20.12	75.00	268,529.41
827	BLK 04 LOT 06 SEC 05 PH II	T-749826	20.12	35.00	171,274.78
828	BLK 04 LOT 08 SEC 05 PH II	T-749828	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
829	BLK 04 LOT 10 SEC 03 PH II	T-689713	20.12	35.00	196,043.93
830	BLK 04 LOT 10 SEC 05 PH I	T-690281	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
831	BLK 04 LOT 10 SEC 10 PH I	T-691050	20.12	35.00	179,210.15
832	BLK 04 LOT 11 SEC 03 PH I	T-689714	20.12	35.00	167,678.36
833	BLK 04 LOT 11 SEC 08 PH I	T-690841	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
834	BLK 04 LOT 12 SEC 05 PH II	T-749832	20.12	35.00	185,191.00
835	BLK 04 LOT 13 SEC 05 PH I	T-690284	20.12	35.00	165,851.21
836	BLK 04 LOT 13 SEC 10 PH I	T-691053	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
837	BLK 04 LOT 13 SEC 14 PH I	T-692049	20.12	35.00	154,701.68
838	BLK 04 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH II	T-745970	20.12	35.00	188,716.65
839	BLK 04 LOT 14 SEC 07 PH I	T-690590	20.12	35.00	168,717.84
840	BLK 04 LOT 15 SEC 01A PH I	T-688993	20.12	35.00	190,410.08
841	BLK 04 LOT 16 SEC 11 PH I	T-691367	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
842	BLK 04 LOT 17 SEC 11 PH I	T-691368	20.12	35.00	182,812.25
843	BLK 04 LOT 18 SEC 03 PH I	T-689721	20.12	35.00	170,797.40
844	BLK 04 LOT 19 SEC 05 PH II	T-749839	20.12	35.00	162,714.67
845	BLK 04 LOT 20 SEC 03 PH I	T-689723	20.12	35.00	188,099.46
846	BLK 04 LOT 21 SEC 05 PH II	T-749841	20.12	35.00	171,274.78
847	BLK 04 LOT 22 SEC 05 PH II	T-749842	20.12	35.00	188,555.23
848	BLK 04 LOT 22 SEC 10 PH I	T-691062	20.12	35.00	177,460.07
849	BLK 04 LOT 27 SEC 06 PH II	T-750155	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
850	BLK 05 LOT 02 SEC 04 PH II	T-749586	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
851	BLK 05 LOT 05 SEC 05 PH I	T-690295	20.12	35.00	168,357.74
852	BLK 05 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 02 PH I	T-689053/55	20.12	85.00	379,040.09
853	BLK 05 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 14 PH I	T-692067/069	20.12	70.00	263,065.14
854	BLK 05 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-689056/054	20.12	85.00	368,942.26
855	BLK 05 LOT 07 SEC 05 PH II	T-749855	20.12	35.00	171,274.78
856	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 05 PH I	T-690298	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
857	BLK 05 LOT 08 SEC 12 PH I	T-691690	20.12	35.00	186,611.52
858	BLK 05 LOT 10 SEC 03 PH I	T-689739	20.12	35.00	171,319.36
859	BLK 05 LOT 10 SEC 04 PH II	T-749594	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
860	BLK 05 LOT 11 SEC 11 PH I	T-690383	20.12	35.00	163,514.12
861	BLK 05 LOT 11 SEC 13 PH I	T-691868	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
862	BLK 05 LOT 11 SEC 14 PH I	T-692072	20.12	35.00	176,876.88
863	BLK 05 LOT 12 SEC 03 PH I	T-689741	20.12	35.00	188,937.17
864	BLK 05 LOT 12 SEC 04 PH I	T-690016	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
865	BLK 05 LOT 12 SEC 10 PH I	T-691078	20.12	35.00	178,165.20
866	BLK 05 LOT 12 SEC 14 PH I	T-692073	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
867	BLK 05 LOT 13 SEC 14 PH I	T-692074	20.12	36.00	163,204.01
868	BLK 05 LOT 14 SEC 07 PH I	T-690612	20.12	35.00	172,123.01
869	BLK 05 LOT 15 SEC 10 PH I	T-691081	20.12	35.00	177,460.07
870	BLK 05 LOT 16 SEC 08 PH II	T-750663	20.12	35.00	187,918.07
871	BLK 05 LOT 17 SEC 04 PH I	T-690021	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
872	BLK 05 LOT 18 SEC 10 PH I	T-691084	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
873	BLK 05 LOT 19 SEC 08 PH I	T-690878	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
874	BLK 05 LOT 20 SEC 05 PH II	T-749868	20.12	35.00	164,029.78
875	BLK 05 LOT 21 SEC 13 PH I	T-691878	20.12	35.00	178,165.20
876	BLK 05 LOT 25 & 27 SEC 13 PH I	T-691884/82	20.12	75.00	305,108.22
877	BLK 05 LOT 25 SEC 03 PH I	T-689754	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
878	BLK 05 LOT 26 SEC 03 PH I	T-689755	20.12	35.00	160,735.47
879	BLK 05 LOT 26 SEC 05 PH II	T-749874	20.12	35.00	180,863.77
880	BLK 05 SEC 01 SEC 06 PH II	T-750172	20.12	35.00	193,054.20
881	BLK 06 LOT 02 & 04 SEC 12 PH I	T-691705/703	20.12	70.00	260,557.38
882	BLK 06 LOT 03 SEC 03 PH II	T-749394	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
883	BLK 06 LOT 03 SEC 10 PH I	T-691096	20.12	35.00	178,165.20
884	BLK 06 LOT 03 SEC 11 PH I	T-691390	20.12	35.00	181,733.32
885	BLK 06 LOT 05 & 07 SEC 04 PH I	T-690037/039	20.12	75.00	305,108.22
886	BLK 06 LOT 06 SEC 12 PH I	T-691707	20.12	35.00	163,261.79
887	BLK 06 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-689077/689079	20.12	95.00	372,440.32
888	BLK 06 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 13 PH I	T-691892/894	20.12	70.00	293,541.26
889	BLK 06 LOT 08 SEC 12 PH I	T-691709	20.12	35.00	186,371.88
890	BLK 06 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH I	T-688310	20.12	35.00	166,654.86
891	BLK 06 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH II	T-746023	20.12	35.00	166,159.62
892	BLK 06 LOT 10 SEC 07 PH I	T-690630	20.12	35.00	187,482.68
893	BLK 06 LOT 11 SEC 11 PH I	T-691398	20.12	35.00	176,024.32
894	BLK 06 LOT 12 SEC 03 PH I	T-689772	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
895	BLK 06 LOT 13 SEC 03 PH II	T-749404	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
896	BLK 06 LOT 13 SEC 14 PH I	T-692099	20.12	35.00	185,629.78
897	BLK 06 LOT 14 SEC 10 PH I	T-691107	20.12	35.00	160,348.68
898	BLK 06 LOT 15 SEC 07 PH I	T-690635	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
899	BLK 06 LOT 15 SEC 14 PH I	T-692101	20.12	35.00	186,975.06
900	BLK 06 LOT 17 SEC 03 PH I	T-689777	20.12	35.00	165,474.54
901	BLK 06 LOT 18 SEC 05 PH I	T-690334	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
902	BLK 06 LOT 19 SEC 13 PH I	T-691904	20.12	35.00	176,873.88
903	BLK 06 LOT 21 SEC 05 PH I	T-690337	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
904	BLK 06 LOT 23 SEC 05 PH II	T-749899	20.12	35.00	188,903.55
905	BLK 06 LOT 23 SEC 10 PH I	T-691116	20.12	35.00	170,964.75
906	BLK 06 LOT 24 SEC 05 PH II	T-749900	20.12	35.00	159,488.06
907	BLK 07 LOT 03 SEC 01 PH I	T-688318	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
908	BLK 07 LOT 05 SEC 04 PH II	T-749649	20.12	35.00	187,875.59
909	BLK 07 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 02 PH I	T-689087/089	20.12	85.00	343,028.57
910	BLK 07 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 10 PH I	T-691124/26	20.12	70.00	255,216.61
911	BLK 07 LOT 06 SEC 04 PH II	T-749650	20.12	35.00	185,097.55
912	BLK 07 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-689088/090	20.12	85.00	347,327.65
913	BLK 07 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 13 PH I	T-691923/691921	20.12	70.00	261,052.40
914	BLK 07 LOT 07 SEC 03 PH I	T-689797	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
915	BLK 07 LOT 07 SEC 04 PH II	T-749651	20.12	35.00	188,623.19
916	BLK 07 LOT 07 SEC 05 PH II	T-749911	20.12	35.00	187,297.89
917	BLK 07 LOT 08 SEC 04 PH II	T-749652	20.12	35.00	189,098.94
918	BLK 07 LOT 10 SEC 04 PH I	T-690070	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
919	BLK 07 LOT 10 SEC 10 PH I	T-691128	20.12	35.00	158,421.89
920	BLK 07 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH I	T-688326	20.12	35.00	166,654.86
921	BLK 07 LOT 11 SEC 03 PH I	T-689801	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
922	BLK 07 LOT 11 SEC 04 PH II	T-749655	20.12	35.00	188,784.61
923	BLK 07 LOT 11 SEC 13 PH I	T-691925	20.12	35.00	154,701.68
924	BLK 07 LOT 12 SEC 04 PH II	T-749656	20.12	35.00	162,336.63
925	BLK 07 LOT 13 SEC 03 PH I	T-689803	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
926	BLK 07 LOT 13 SEC 10 PH I	T-691131	20.12	35.00	157,680.23
927	BLK 07 LOT 13 SEC 12 PH I	T-691730	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
928	BLK 07 LOT 14 SEC 13 PH I	T-691928	20.12	35.00	188,121.98
929	BLK 07 LOT 15 SEC 03 PH I	T-689805	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
930	BLK 07 LOT 15 SEC 12 PH I	T-691732	20.12	35.00	160,558.51
931	BLK 07 LOT 16 SEC 04 PH I	T-690076	20.12	35.00	161,735.99
932	BLK 07 LOT 18 SEC 03 PH I	T-689808	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
933	BLK 07 LOT 18 SEC 04 PH I	T-690078	20.12	35.00	187,238.42

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
934	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-689809	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
935	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 05 PH II	T-749923	20.12	35.00	171,274.78
936	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 12 PH I	T-691736	20.12	35.00	168,208.61
937	BLK 07 LOT 19 SEC 13 PH I	T-691933	20.12	35.00	165,629.78
938	BLK 07 LOT 20 SEC 03 PH I	T-689810	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
939	BLK 07 LOT 20 SEC 08 PH II	T-750713	20.12	35.00	164,029.78
940	BLK 07 LOT 21 & 23 SEC 06 PH II	T-750300/302	20.12	70.00	303,619.25
941	BLK 07 LOT 25 SEC 03 PH I	T-689815	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
942	BLK 07 LOT 25 SEC 04 PH II	T-749669	20.12	35.00	182,506.41
943	BLK 07 LOT 26 SEC 04 PH II	T-749670	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
944	BLK 07 LOT 27 & 29 SEC 13 PH I	T-691941/943	20.12	75.00	277,124.03
945	BLK 08 LOT 06 SEC 02 PH I	T-689110	20.12	35.00	170,420.72
946	BLK 03 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 04 PH I	T-690096/098	20.12	75.00	320,915.15
947	BLK 08 LOT 08 SEC 02 PH I	T-689112	20.12	35.00	170,420.72
948	BLK 08 LOT 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-689113	20.12	35.00	165,851.21
949	BLK 08 LOT 09 SEC 05 PH II	T-749941	20.12	35.00	189,897.52
950	BLK 08 LOT 10 & 12 SEC 04 PH I	T-690101/099	20.12	70.00	283,243.34
951	BLK 08 LOT 10 SEC 12 PH I	T-691751	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
952	BLK 08 LOT 11 SEC 04 PH I	T-690100	20.12	35.00	170,964.75
953	BLK 08 LOT 11 SEC 10 PH I	T-691154	20.12	35.00	157,680.23
954	BLK 08 LOT 12 SEC 02 PH I	T-689116	20.12	35.00	177,665.72
955	BLK 08 LOT 12 SEC 10 PH I	T-691155	20.12	35.00	206,908.12
956	BLK 08 LOT 13 SEC 01 PH II	T-746074	20.12	35.00	200,515.15
957	BLK 08 LOT 14 SEC 10 PH I	T-691157	20.12	35.00	206,885.53
958	BLK 08 LOT 14 SEC 12 PH I	T-691755	20.12	35.00	190,279.82
959	BLK 08 LOT 15 SEC 07 PH I	T-690654	20.12	35.00	185,807.26
960	BLK 08 LOT 16 SEC 03 PH I	T-689836	20.12	35.00	165,851.21
961	BLK 08 LOT 16 SEC 07 PH I	T-690655	20.12	35.00	166,654.86
962	BLK 08 LOT 18 SEC 03 PH I	T-689838	20.12	35.00	184,334.36
963	BLK 08 LOT 18 SEC 07 PH I	T-690657	20.12	35.00	164,521.76
964	BLK 08 LOT 20 SEC 03 PH I	T-68940	20.12	35.00	190,410.08
965	BLK 08 LOT 20 SEC 13 PH I	T-691963	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
966	BLK 08 LOT 21 SEC 05 PH I	T-690399	20.12	35.00	169,256.38
967	BLK 08 LOT 22 SEC 05 PH II	T-749954	20.12	35.00	183,101.10
968	BLK 08 LOT 22 SEC 12 PH I	T-691763	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
969	BLK 08 LOT 23 SEC 07 PH I	T-690662	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
970	BLK 08 LOT 25 SEC 07 PH I	T-690664	20.12	35.00	187,464.27
971	BLK 08 LOT 26 SEC 05 PH II	T-749958	20.12	35.00	188,784.61
972	BLK 08 LOT 29 SEC 04 PH II	T-749702	20.12	35.00	179,600.94
973	BLK 09 LOT 03 SEC 03 PH I	T-689853	20.12	35.00	184,334.36
974	BLK 09 LOT 03 SEC 05 PH I	T-690410	20.12	35.00	184,334.36
975	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-689126/128	20.12	85.00	343,208.12
976	BLK 09 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 04 PH I	T-690127/25	20.12	75.00	266,455.31
977	BLK 09 LOT 07 SEC 10 PH I	T-691173	20.12	35.00	176,024.32
978	BLK 09 LOT 08 SEC 10 PH I	T-691174	20.12	36.00	161,130.89
979	BLK 09 LOT 09 SEC 04 PH II	T-749712	20.12	35.00	185,326.93
980	BLK 09 LOT 10 SEC 02 PH I	T-689129	20.12	35.00	160,735.47
981	BLK 09 LOT 10 SEC 03 PH I	T-689860	20.12	35.00	162,798.45
982	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 02 PH I	T-689130	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
983	BLK 09 LOT 11 SEC 05 PH I	T-690418	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
984	BLK 09 LOT 12 SEC 04 PH I	T-690130	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
985	BLK 09 LOT 15 SEC 05 PH I	T-690422	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
986	BLK 09 LOT 17 SEC 05 PH I	T-690424	20.12	35.00	189,774.89
987	BLK 09 LOT 18 SEC 05 PH II	T-749978	20.12	35.00	154,701.68
988	BLK 09 LOT 18 SEC 07 PH I	T-690684	20.12	35.00	187,482.68
989	BLK 09 LOT 19 SEC 02 PH I	T-689138	20.12	35.00	197,268.28
990	BLK 09 LOT 19 SEC 03 PH I	T-689869	20.12	35.00	187,464.27
991	BLK 09 LOT 20 SEC 07 PH I	T-690686	20.12	35.00	170,797.40
992	BLK 09 LOT 21 SEC 05 PH I	T-690428	20.12	35.00	185,807.26
993	BLK 09 LOT 23 SEC 03 PH I	T-689873	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
994	BLK 09 LOT 23 SEC 04 PH I	T-690141	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
995	BLK 09 LOT 23 SEC 12 PH I	T-691792	20.12	35.00	167,176.54
996	BLK 09 LOT 24 SEC 04 PH I	T-690142	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
997	BLK 09 LOT 25 SEC 03 PH I	T-689875	20.12	38.00	185,172.07
998	BLK 09 LOT 25 SEC 12 PH I	T-691794	20.12	35.00	167,620.01
999	BLK 09 LOT 26 & 28 SEC 12 PH I	T-691797/795	20.12	75.00	311,312.99
1000	BLK 09 LOT 27 & 29 SEC 05 PH I	T-690436/434	20.12	75.00	317,915.90
1001	BLK 09 LOT 28 SEC 07 PH I	T-690694	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1002	BLK 09 LOT 31 SEC 07 PH I	T-690697	20.12	35.00	190,410.08
1003	BLK 09 LOT 32 SEC 05 PH II	T-749992	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
1004	BLK 09 LOT 33 SEC 07 PH I	T-690699	20.12	35.00	190,410.08
1005	BLK 10 LOT 03 SEC 03 PH I	T-689862	20.12	35.00	197,406.36
1006	BLK 10 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 07 PH I	T-690709/707	20.12	70.00	310,446.65
1007	BLK 10 LOT 06 SEC 01 PH I	T-688367	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1008	BLK 10 LOT 10 SEC 02 PH I	T-689152	20.12	35.00	165,561.24
1009	BLK 10 LOT 11 SEC 03 PH I	T-689890	20.12	35.00	177,122.07
1010	BLK 10 LOT 12 SEC 07 PH I	T-690713	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1011	BLK 10 LOT 13 SEC 02 PH I	T-689155	20.12	35.00	189,774.89
1012	BLK 10 LOT 17 SEC 03 PH I	T-689896	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1013	BLK 10 LOT 19 SEC 10 PH I	T-691197	20.12	35.00	178,165.20
1014	BLK 10 LOT 21 & 23 SEC 10 PH I	T-691199/201	20.12	70.00	292,266.05
1015	BLK 10 LOT 24 SEC 07 PH I	T-690725	20.12	35.00	177,122.07
1016	BLK 10 LOT 25 SEC 04 PH I	T-690172	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
1017	BLK 10 LOT 26 SEC 07 PH I	T-690727	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
1018	BLK 11 LOT 01 SEC 01 PH II	T-748154	20.12	35.00	173,218.64
1019	BLK 11 LOT 03 SEC 01 PH I	T-688378	20.12	36.00	178,686.93
1020	BLK 11 LOT 04 SEC 01 PH I	T-688379	20.12	36.00	188,817.26
1021	BLK 11 LOT 04 SEC 10 PH I	T-691206	20.12	40.00	205,355.31
1022	BLK 11 LOT 10 SEC 02 PH I	T-689171	20.12	35.00	185,807.26
1023	BLK 11 LOT 12 SEC 02 PH I	T-689173	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1024	BLK 11 LOT 12 SEC 03 PH I	T-689920	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1025	BLK 11 LOT 15 SEC 02 PH I	T-689176	20.12	35.00	197,185.42
1026	BLK 11 LOT 18 SEC 02 PH I	T-689179	20.12	35.00	170,797.40
1027	BLK 11 LOT 19 SEC 02 PH I	T-689180	20.12	35.00	164,521.76
1028	BLK 11 LOT 22 SEC 03 PH I	T-689930	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
1029	BLK 11 LOT 25 SEC 03 PH I	T-689933	20.12	35.00	184,334.36
1030	BLK 12 LOT 03 SEC 11 PH I	T-691455	20.12	35.00	158,119.43
1031	BLK 12 LOT 06 SEC 10 PH I	T-691224	20.12	35.00	180,280.58
1032	BLK 12 LOT 08 SEC 02 PH I	T-689192	20.12	35.00	189,774.89
1033	BLK 12 LOT 10 SEC 10 PH I	T-691228	20.12	35.00	164,029.78
1034	BLK 12 LOT 11 SEC 11 PH I	T-691163	20.12	35.00	176,024.32
1035	BLK 12 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH I	T-688394	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1036	BLK 12 LOT 12 SEC 02 PH I	T-689196	20.12	35.00	191,662.04
1037	BLK 12 LOT 13 SEC 02 PH I	T-689197	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
1038	BLK 12 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH I	T-688396	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1039	BLK 12 LOT 14 SEC 02 PH I	T-689198	20.12	35.00	160,735.47
1040	BLK 12 LOT 14 SEC 10 PH I	T-691232	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
1041	BLK 12 LOT 15 SEC 01 PH I	T-6688397	20.12	35.00	199,220.72
1042	BLK 12 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH I	T-688400	20.12	35.00	170,797.40
1043	BLK 12 LOT 18 SEC 02 PH I	T-689202	20.12	35.00	197,406.36
1044	BLK 12 LOT 18 SEC 10 PH I	T-691236	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
1045	BLK 12 LOT 22 SEC 01 PH I	T-688404	20.12	35.00	185,807.26
1046	BLK 12 LOT 23 SEC 01 PH I	T-688405	20.12	35.00	168,734.41
1047	BLK 12 LOT 24 SEC 01 PH I	T-688406	20.12	35.00	159,409.86
1048	BLK 12 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-688410	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1049	BLK 13 LOT 03 SEC 11 PH I	T-691470	20.12	35.00	160,409.84
1050	BLK 13 LOT 08 SEC 10 PH I	T-691258	20.12	35.00	165,395.03
1051	BLK 13 LOT 10 SEC 10 PH I	T-691260	20.12	35.00	165,746.74
1052	BLK 13 LOT 13 SEC 11 PH I	T-691480	20.12	35.00	161,113.28
1053	BLK 13 LOT 14 SEC 10 PH I	T-691264	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
1054	BLK 13 LOT 16 SEC 02 PH I	T-689223	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1055	BLK 13 LOT 16 SEC 10 PH I	T-691266	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
1056	BLK 13 LOT 19 SEC 02 PH I	T-689226	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1057	BLK 13 LOT 21 & 23 SEC 02 PH I	T-689228/230	20.12	70.00	367,913.85
1058	BLK 13 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH I	T-688436	20.12	35.00	169,239.81
1059	BLK 13 LOT 25 SEC 01 PH I	T-688440	20.12	35.00	185,807.26
1060	BLK 13 LOT 27 SEC 10 PH I	T-691277	20.12	35.00	153,080.74
1061	BLK 13 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-688443	20.12	35.00	187,482.68
1062	BLK 13 LOT 28 SEC 10 PH I	T-691278	20.12	35.00	178,751.39
1063	BLK 14 LOT 03 SEC 11 PH I	T-691487	20.12	35.00	180,841.29
1064	BLK 14 LOT 08 SEC 08 PH II	T-750891	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
1065	BLK 14 LOT 10 SEC 02 PH I	T-689240	20.12	35.00	170,420.72
1066	BLK 14 LOT 13 SEC 11 PH I	T-691497	20.12	35.00	164,029.78
1067	BLK 14 LOT 14 SEC 02 PH I	T-689244	20.12	35.00	189,369.84
1068	BLK 14 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH I	T-688464	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1069	BLK 14 LOT 19 SEC 08 PH II	T-750902	20.12	35.00	163,032.42
1070	BLK 14 LOT 20 SEC 01 PH I	T-688468	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1071	BLK 14 LOT 22 SEC 01 PH I	T-688470	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
1072	BLK 14 LOT 24 SEC 01 PH I	T-688472	20.12	35.00	165,561.24
1073	BLK 14 LOT 25 SEC 01 PH I	T-688473	20.12	35.00	185,807.26
1074	BLK 14 LOT 26 SEC 01 PH I	T-688474	20.12	35.00	170,221.88
1075	BLK 14 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-688476	20.12	35.00	147,515.62
1076	BLK 14 LOT 29 SEC 01 PH I	T-688477	20.12	35.00	185,807.26
1077	BLK 15 LOT 03 SEC 01 PH I	T-688484	20.12	35.00	165,499.39
1078	BLK 15 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH I	T-688492	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1079	BLK 15 LOT 17 SEC 01 PH I	T-688498	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
1080	BLK 15 LOT 18 SEC 11 PH I	T-691522	20.12	35.00	105,360.00
1081	BLK 15 LOT 19 SEC 01 PH I	T-688500	20.12	35.00	162,442.20
1082	BLK 15 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH I	T-688502	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
1083	BLK 15 LOT 22 SEC 01 PH I	T-688503	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1084	BLK 15 LOT 23 SEC 02 PH I	T-689280	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
1085	BLK 15 LOT 26 SEC 01 PH I	T-688507	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1086	BLK 15 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH I	T-688508	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1087	BLK 15 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-688509	20.12	35.00	168,654.86
1088	BLK 16 LOT 04 SEC 01 PH I	T-748268	20.12	35.00	161,113.28
1089	BLK 16 LOT 05 SEC 08 PH II	T-750944	20.12	35.00	184,061.09
1090	BLK 16 LOT 07 SEC 08 PH II	T-750946	20.12	35.00	190,264.34
1091	BLK 16 LOT 10 SEC 08 PH II	T-750949	20.12	35.00	183,848.71
1092	BLK 16 LOT 11 SEC 02 PH I	T-689297	20.12	35.00	182,255.32
1093	BLK 16 LOT 22 SEC 01 PH I	T-688536	20.12	36.00	190,410.08
1094	BLK 16 LOT 23 SEC 01 PH I	T-688537	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1095	BLK 16 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH I	T-688541	20.12	35.00	165,561.24
1096	BLK 17 LOT 16 SEC 11 PH I	T-691548	20.12	35.00	168,124.64
1097	BLK 17 LOT 20 SEC 01 PH I	T-688567	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1098	BLK 17 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH I	T-688568	20.12	35.00	165,851.21
1099	BLK 17 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH I	T-688574	20.12	35.00	189,369.84
1100	BLK 17 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-688575	20.12	35.00	160,735.47
1101	BLK 18 LOT 03 SEC 08 PH II	T-751004	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
1102	BLK 18 LOT 06 SEC 08 PH II	T-751007	20.12	35.00	202,345.31
1103	BLK 18 LOT 07 SEC 08 PH II	T-751008	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
1104	BLK 18 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH I	T-688592	20.12	35.00	187,482.68
1105	BLK 18 LOT 19 SEC 01 PH I	T-688599	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1106	BLK 18 LOT 20 SEC 02 PH I	T-689336	20.12	35.00	176,890.36
1107	BLK 18 LOT 24 & 26 SEC 02 PH I	T-689342/689340	20.12	70.00	277,117.70
1108	BLK 18 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-688608	20.12	35.00	165,851.21
1109	BLK 18 LOT 29 SEC 01 PH I	T-688609	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1110	BLK 19 LOT 03 SEC 02 PH I	T-689346	20.12	35.00	163,262.51
1111	BLK 19 LOT 10 SEC 02 PH I	T-689353	20.12	35.00	176,534.05
1112	BLK 19 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH I	T-688624	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1113	BLK 19 LOT 17 SEC 08 PH II	T-751046	20.12	35.00	161,113.28
1114	BLK 19 LOT 21 SEC 02 PH I	T-689364	20.12	35.00	173,190.58
1115	BLK 19 LOT 25 SEC 02 PH I	T-689368	20.12	35.00	154,976.94
1116	BLK 20 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH I	T-688658	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1117	BLK 20 LOT 23 SEC 02 PH I	T-689397	20.12	35.00	168,132.29
1118	BLK 20 LOT 25 SEC 02 PH I	T-689399	20.12	35.00	163,262.51
1119	BLK 20 LOT 27 SEC 02 PH I	T-689401	20.12	35.00	163,295.77
1120	BLK 21 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH I	T-688689	20.12	35.00	165,851.21
1121	BLK 21 LOT 12 SEC 02 PH I	T-689419	20.12	35.00	183,593.84
1122	BLK 21 LOT 15 SEC 02 PH I	T-689422	20.12	35.00	190,279.82
1123	BLK 21 LOT 17 SEC 02 PH I	T-689424	20.12	35.00	184,834.19
1124	BLK 21 LOT 18 SEC 02 PH I	T-689425	20.12	35.00	168,292.85
1125	BLK 21 LOT 20 SEC 02 PH I	T-689427	20.12	35.00	154,701.68
1126	BLK 21 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH I	T-688700	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1127	BLK 21 LOT 22 SEC 02 PH I	T-689429	20.12	35.00	183,262.51
1128	BLK 21 LOT 23 SEC 01 PH I	T-688702	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1129	BLK 21 LOT 24 & 26 SEC 01 PH I	T-688705	20.12	35.00	351,813.86
1130	BLK 21 LOT 27 SEC 02 PH I	T-689434	20.12	35.00	159,679.22
1131	BLK 22 LOT 03 SEC 08 PH II	T-751122	20.12	35.00	181,733.32
1132	BLK 22 LOT 06 & 08 SEC 01 PH I	T-688720/718	20.12	70.00	266,600.50
1133	BLK 22 LOT 07 & 09 SEC 02 PH I	T-689449/447	20.12	75.00	305,108.22
1134	BLK 22 LOT 11 SEC 02 PH I	T-689451	20.12	35.00	156,620.83
1135	BLK 22 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH I	T-688730	20.12	35.00	171,319.36
1136	BLK 22 LOT 19 SEC 02 PH I	T-689459	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
1137	BLK 22 LOT 21 SEC 01 PH I	T-688733	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
1138	BLK 22 LOT 24 SEC 01 PH II	T-748417	20.12	35.00	180,348.68
1139	BLK 22 LOT 28 SEC 02 PH I	T-689468	20.12	35.00	158,983.43
1140	BLK 22 LOT 30 SEC 02 PH I	T-689470	20.12	35.00	183,262.51
1141	BLK 23 LOT 01 SEC 08 PH II	T-751148	20.12	35.00	180,463.64
1142	BLK 23 LOT 03 SEC 01 PH I	T-688748	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1143	BLK 23 LOT 03 SEC 08 PH II	T-751150	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
1144	BLK 23 LOT 07 SEC 11 PH I	T-691612	20.12	35.00	181,130.14
1145	BLK 23 LOT 08 SEC 11 PH I	T-691613	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
1146	BLK 23 LOT 11 SEC 02 PH I	T-689486	20.12	35.00	176,882.37
1147	BLK 23 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH I	T-688759	20.12	35.00	160,735.47
1148	BLK 23 LOT 15 SEC 01 PH I	T-688760	20.12	35.00	166,654.86
1149	BLK 23 LOT 16 SEC 02 PH I	T-689491	20.12	35.00	168,144.23
1150	BLK 23 LOT 20 SEC 02 PH I	T-689495	20.12	35.00	177,893.34
1151	BLK 23 LOT 23 SEC 02 PH I	T-689498	20.12	35.00	179,354.57
1152	BLK 23 LOT 25 SEC 02 PH I	T-689500	20.12	35.00	170,701.34
1153	BLK 23 LOT 27 SEC 01 PH I	T-688772	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1154	BLK 23 LOT 28 SEC 01 PH I	T-688773	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1155	BLK 23 LOT 29 SEC 01 PH I	T-688774	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1156	BLK 23 LOT 29 SEC 02 PH I	T-689504	20.12	35.00	176,882.37
1157	BLK 24 LOT 04 SEC 08 PH II	T-751179	20.12	35.00	190,305.31
1158	BLK 24 LOT 09 SEC 01 PH I	T-688787	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1159	BLK 24 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH I	T-688789	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1160	BLK 24 LOT 14 SEC 02 PH I	T-689524	20.12	35.00	182,255.31
1161	BLK 24 LOT 17 SEC 02 PH I	T-689527	20.12	35.00	189,897.52
1162	BLK 24 LOT 18 SEC 02 PH I	T-689528	20.12	35.00	151,329.81
1163	BLK 24 LOT 25 SEC 02 PH I	T-689535	20.12	35.00	179,014.75
1164	BLK 24 LOT 29 SEC 02 PH I	T-689539	20.12	35.00	179,014.75
1165	BLK 25 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH I	T-688798	20.12	35.00	165,851.21
1166	BLK 25 LOT 06 SEC 01 PH I	T-688799	20.12	35.00	165,851.21
1167	BLK 25 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH I	T-688803	20.12	35.00	182,861.46
1168	BLK 25 LOT 12 SEC 01 PH I	T-688805	20.12	35.00	185,172.07
1169	BLK 25 LOT 14 SEC 01 PH I	T-688807	20.12	35.00	162,442.20
1170	BLK 25 LOT 14 SEC 02 PH I	T-689561	20.12	35.00	168,144.23
1171	BLK 25 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH I	T-688811	20.12	35.00	159,409.86
1172	BLK 25 LOT 24 SEC 01 PH I	T-688817	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1173	BLK 25 LOT 26 SEC 02 PH I	T-689573	20.12	35.00	179,014.75
1174	BLK 25 LOT 30 SEC 02 PH I	T-689577	20.12	35.00	185,241.97
1175	BLK 25 LOT 31 SEC 02 PH I	T-689578	20.12	40.00	177,846.65
1176	BLK 26 LOT 04 SEC 08 PH II	T-751231	20.12	35.00	187,170.46
1177	BLK 26 LOT 09 SEC 01 PH I	T-688828	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1178	BLK 26 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH I	T-688835	20.12	35.00	189,356.36
1179	BLK 26 LOT 17 SEC 01 PH I	T-688836	20.12	35.00	169,476.23
1180	BLK 27 LOT 05 SEC 01 PH I	T-688844	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1181	BLK 27 LOT 09 SEC 01 PH I	T-688848	20.12	35.00	187,482.68
1182	BLK 27 LOT 10 SEC 01 PH I	T-688849	20.12	35.00	187,464.27
1183	BLK 27 LOT 11 SEC 01 PH I	T-688850	20.12	35.00	197,406.36
1184	BLK 27 LOT 16 SEC 01 PH I	T-688855	20.12	35.00	183,888.21
1185	BLK 27 LOT 18 SEC 01 PH I	T-688857	20.12	35.00	183,956.93
1186	BLK 28 LOT 06 SEC 01 PH I	T-688865	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1187	BLK 29 LOT 09 SEC 01 PH I	T-688878	20.12	35.00	175,906.93
1188	BLK 29 LOT 13 SEC 01 PH I	T-688882	20.12	35.00	177,122.07
1189	BLK 29 LOT 17 SEC 01 PH I	T-688886	20.12	35.00	159,409.86
1190	BLK 33 LOT 02 SEC 01 PH II	T-748631	20.12	35.00	176,600.88
1191	BLK 36 LOT 30 SEC 01 PH II	T-748773	20.12	35.00	187,867.70
1192	BLK 37 LOT 02 SEC 01 PH II	T-748775	20.12	35.00	193,282.60

CH TIERRA NEVADA
Bo. San Francisco Gen Trias Cavite

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1193	BLK 15 LOT 16 PH I	T-980413	26.19	55.00	328,146.45
1194	BLK 30 LOT 22 PH I	T-987850	26.19	55.00	295,331.81

WINDWARD HILLS I
Bo. Burol Dasmarinas Cavite

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1195	BLK 16 LOT 07	T-422171	24.00	70.00	366,608.87

LAGUNA AREA

CH-BERMUDA
Bo. Banlic Cabuyao Laguna

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1196	BLK 08 LOT 10 PH 2B	T-379014	25.00	50.00	229,518.32

COUNTRY HOMES SUBD
Bo. Soro Soro Binan Laguna

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1197	BLK 14 LOT.11	T-526581		108.00	282,268.80

MABUHAY CITY-CABUYAO
Bo. Mamatid Cabuyao Laguna

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1198	BLK 03 LOT 10 PH I	T-418054	20.00	36.00	231,676.44
1199	BLK 142 LOT 76 PH II	T-451167	20.00	36.00	233,982.30
1200	BLK 154 LOT 32 PH 2	T-451531	25.00	63.00	363,763.62
1201	BLK 159 LOT 15 PH 2	T-451662	20.00	36.00	233,982.30
1202	BLK 169 LOT 14 PH 2	T-451961	20.00	36.00	232,621.72
1203	BLK 21 LOT 11	T-418509	20.00	36.00	231,676.04
1204	BLK 39 LOT 26 PH I	T-419551	20.00	36.00	200,253.02
1205	BLK 75 LOT 37 PH I	T-420462	20.00	36.00	201,299.22
1206	BLK 77 LOT 50	T-420595	20.00	36.00	229,901.27

PALO ALTO HIGHLANDS
Bo. Palo Alto Calamba Laguna

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1207	BLK 05 LOT 13 PH 3A	T-374464	20.00	35.00	154,522.87

SOUTHERN HEIGHTS
Bo. San Vicente San Pedro Laguna
Bo. San Antonio San Pedro Laguna

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1208	BLK 12 LOT 03 PH II	T-391007	20.12	35.00	166,094.83
1209	BLK 22 LOT 24 & 26 PH II	T-360682/684	20.12	70.00	271,166.08
1210	BLK 31 LOT 34 & 36 PH II	361043/41	20.12	80.00	299,456.08
1211	BLK 36 LOT 26 PH II	T-361185	20.12	35.00	166,094.83
1212	BLK 36 LOT 42 PH II	T-361201	20.12	35.00	164,448.38
1213	BLK 41 LOT 26 PH II	T-361480	20.12	35.00	166,094.83

ST JOSEPH VILLAGE
Bo. Mamatid Cabuyao Laguna

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1214	BLK 03 LOT 13 PH 3	T-363911	20.00	40.00	199,145.43

TOWN AND COUNTRY
Bo. Calaboso Binan Laguna

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1215	BLK 07 LOT 04	T-526582	0.00	108.00	388,800.00

METRO MANILA AREA

SMILE CITIHOMES
Bo. Kaligayahan Novaliches Q.C

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1216	BLDG B CLUSTER 1 UNIT 2-3	N-12456	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1217	BLDG B CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-1	N-12472	30.00	0.00	310,263.00
1218	BLDG B CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-3	N-12474	30.00	0.00	310,263.00
1219	BLDG C CLUSTER 1 UNIT 3-1	N-12576	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1220	BLDG C CLUSTER 2 UNIT 2-6	N-12605	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1221	BLDG C CLUSTER 3 UNIT 3-4	N-12638	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1222	BLDG C CLUSTER 4 UNIT 2-1	N-12658	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1223	BLDG C CLUSTER 4 UNIT 2-4	N-12661	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1224	BLDG C CLUSTER 4 UNIT P-4	N-12679	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1225	BLDG D CLUSTER 1 UNIT 2-2	N-12688	30.00	0.00	383,266.20
1226	BLDG D CLUSTER 4 UNIT 3-6	N-12828	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1227	BLDG E CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-3	N-12895	30.00	0.00	310,263.00
1228	BLDG E CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-4	N-12896	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1229	BLDG F CLUSTER 1 UNIT 3-3	N-12912	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1230	BLDG F CLUSTER 2 UNIT 2-6	N-12986	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1231	BLDG F CLUSTER 2 UNIT 4-4	N-12996	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1232	BLDG F CLUSTER 2 UNIT 4-5	N-12997	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1233	BLDG F CLUSTER 4 UNIT 2-3	OCT-13041	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1234	BLDG G CLUSTER 1 UNIT 3-2	N-13075	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1235	BLDG G CLUSTER 3 UNIT 3-1	N-13132	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1236	BLDG G CLUSTER 3 UNIT P-2	N-13145	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1237	BLDG G CLUSTER 4 UNIT P-4	N-13176	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1238	BLDG G CLUSTER 5 UNIT 2-6	N-13190	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1239	BLDG G CLUSTER 5 UNIT 3-3	N-13193	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1240	BLDG G CLUSTER 5 UNIT 4-3	N-13199	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1241	BLDG G CLUSTER 5 UNIT P-3	N-13205	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1242	BLDG G CLUSTER I UNIT 3-6	N-13079	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1243	BLDG H CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-2	N-13233	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1244	BLDG H CLUSTER 2 UNIT 4-4	N-13258	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1245	BLDG H CLUSTER 3 UNIT 4-3	N-13286	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1246	BLDG H CLUSTER 3 UNIT G-6	N-13271	30.00	0.00	394,216.74
1247	BLDG H CLUSTER 5 UNIT G-2	N-13326	30.00	0.00	394,216.74
1248	BLDG H CLUSTER 6 UNIT 2-5	N-13363	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1249	BLDG H CLUSTER 6 UNIT 2-6	N-13364	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1250	BLDG H CLUSTER 6 UNIT P-3	N-13379	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1251	BLDG I CLUSTER 2 UNIT 3-3	N-13432	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1252	BLDG I CLUSTER 2 UNIT 3-4	N-13433	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1253	BLDG I CLUSTER 3 UNIT G-2	N-13449	30.00	0.00	394,216.74
1254	BLDG J CLUSTER 1 UNIT 2-4	N-13485	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1255	BLDG J CLUSTER 2 UNIT 2-2	N-13512	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1256	BLDG J CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-3	N-13531	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1257	BLDG J CLUSTER 3 UNIT 2-4	N-13543	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1258	BLDG K CLUSTER 1 UNIT 3-3	N-13577	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1259	BLDG K CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-6	N-13592	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1260	BLDG K CLUSTER 2 UNIT 2-4	N-13601	30.00	0.00	344,939.94
1261	BLDG K CLUSTER 2 UNIT 2-5	N-13602	30.00	0.00	344,939.94
1262	BLDG K CLUSTER 3 UNIT 2-3	N-13629	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1263	BLDG K CLUSTER 3 UNIT 3-1	N-13633	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1264	BLDG K CLUSTER 3 UNIT 3-6	N-13638	30.00	0.00	295,652.70
1265	BLDG K CLUSTER 4 UNIT 4-4	N-13671	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1266	BLDG M CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-1	N-13790	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1267	BLDG M CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-2	N-13820	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1268	BLDG N CLUSTER 1 UNIT 2-6	N-13835	30.00	0.00	344,939.58
1269	BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT 3-4	N-13810	30.00	0.00	328,503.00
1270	BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT 5-3	N-13879	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1271	BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-1	N-13877	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1272	BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-5	N-13881	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1273	BLDG N CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-6	N-13882	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1274	BLDG N CLUSTER 3 UNIT P-6	N-13914	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1275	BLDG O CLUSTER 1 UNIT 2-1	N-13920	30.00	0.00	383,266.20
1276	BLDG O CLUSTER 1 UNIT P-3	N-13940	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1277	BLDG O CLUSTER 2 UNIT 4-6	N-13966	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1278	BLDG O CLUSTER 2 UNIT P-4	N-13970	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1279	BLDG O CLUSTER 3 UNIT 5-3	N-14001	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1280	BLDG O CLUSTER 3 UNIT G-6	N-13977	30.00	0.00	394,216.74
1281	BLDG O CLUSTER 3 UNIT P-2	N-14000	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1282	BLDG O CLUSTER 3 UNIT P-4	N-14002	30.00	0.00	279,236.70
1283	BLDG O CLUSTER 4 UNIT 4-4	N-14025	30.00	0.00	310,263.00
1284	BLDG P CLUSTER 2 UNIT G-4	N-14085	30.00	0.00	394,216.74

RIZAL AREA

CARISSA HOMES EAST
Bo. Dalig & Prinza Teresa Rizal

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1285	BLK 12 LOT 17 PH II	M-110150	20.62	63.00	216,559.96
1286	BLK 21 LOT 11 PH I	M-117096	18.00	32.00	154,566.70
1287	BLK 23 LOT 38 PH II	M-117090	20.00	42.00	159,247.17
1288	BLK 23 LOT 43 PH II	M-117091	20.00	42.00	159,247.17
1289	BLK 43 LOT 06 PH II	M-80092	18.00	34.00	174,657.60
1290	BLK 43 LOT 21 PH I	M-117093	18.00	32.00	169,392.00
1291	BLK 43 LOT 29 PH I	M-117092	18.00	32.00	154,566.70
1292	BLK 50 LOT 23 PH I	M-117066	18.00	45.00	187,638.70
1293	BLK 52 LOT 05 PH I	M-117084	18.00	32.00	169,392.00
1294	BLK 52 LOT 22 PH I	M-117087	18.00	32.00	154,566.70
1295	BLK 54 LOT 05 PH I	M-117081	18.00	32.00	154,566.70
1296	BLK 54 LOT 09 PH I	M-117083	18.00	32.00	154,566.70
1297	BLK 55 LOT 16 PH I	M-97540	18.00	32.00	173,361.60
1298	BLK 57 LOT 13 PH I	M-117085	18.00	45.00	187,638.70
1299	BLK 62 LOT 15 PH I	M-97539	18.00	32.00	173,361.60
1300	BLK 62B LOT 07 PH I	M-117099	18.00	45.00	187,638.70
1301	BLK 64 LOT 14 PH II	M-118386	18.00	32.00	171,573.36
1302	BLK 66 LOT 18 PH IIA	M-117098	18.00	32.00	139,340.43
1303	BLK 71 LOT 11 PH I	M-117080	18.00	45.00	187,638.70
1304	BLK 74 LOT 20 PH I	M-103182	20.00	32.00	173,361.60
1305	BLK 75 LOT 09 PH I	M-117082	18.00	32.00	154,566.70
1306	BLK 77 LOT 07 PH I	M-117088	18.00	32.00	154,566.70
1307	BLK 84 LOT 22 PH II	M-117097	18.00	32.00	139,340.43
1308	BLK 85 LOT 14 PH II	M-118389	18.00	43.00	205,893.36

MBH 2000-DARANGAN
Bo. Daranga Binangonan Rizal

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1309	BLK 11 LOT 07 PH 2B	M-68977	30.00	70.00	305,784.31
1310	BLK 120 LOT 04 PH 3A	M-56676	25.00	43.00	205,997.74
1311	BLK 29 LOT 05 PH IB	M-69471	25.00	43.00	205,997.74
1312	BLK 55 LOT 20 PH 2A	M-60084	25.00	43.00	217,013.58
1313	BLK 59 LOT 20 PH 2A	M-64710	0.00	64.00	151,808.00
1314	BLK 67 LOT 08 PH 2A	M-64792	25.00	43.00	205,997.74
1315	BLK 90 LOT 31 PH 3A	M-66060	25.00	43.00	191,655.90
1316	BLK 91 LOT 04 PH 3A	M-66071	25.00	43.00	198,553.26
1317	BLK 91 LOT 14 PH 3A	M-66081	25.00	43.00	201,567.27

NEW SAN MATEO
Bo. Gulitnang Bayan San Mateo Rizal

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1318	BLK 05 LOT 39 PH V	287633	30.00	36.00	273,914.33
1319	BLK 06 LOT 19 PH V	287654	30.00	36.00	278,370.00
1320	BLK 06 LOT 66 PH V	T-287701	30.00	36.00	278,370.00
1321	BLK 06 LOT 27 PH V	287662	30.00	36.00	265,173.75
1322	BLK 06 LOT 64 PH V	T-287699	30.00	36.00	278,370.00

VILLAGE EAST
Sto Domingo Cainta Rizal

No.	LOCATION OF PROPERTY	TCT NO	FLOOR AREA	LOT AREA	MINIMUM BID
1323	BLK 31 LOT 07	T-627582	0.00	260.00	884,000.00

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Interested parties are required to secure copies of : (a) INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS and (b) BID FORMS from the Acquired Asset Management, 8th Flr Pacific Center Bldg. San Miguel Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
2. Sealed proposal in triplicate shall be received at the Acquired Asset Management, 8th Flr Pacific Center Bldg., San Miguel Avenue Ortigas, Pasig City starting 8:00 a.m. not later than 2:00 p.m immediately afterwhich, the said proposals shall be opened in the presence of attending bidders.
3. Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT in CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER'S/ MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila, payable to the Pag-IBIG FUND in an amount equivalent to at least TEN PERCENT (10%) of the total bid price.
4. Properties shall be sold on an "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and the winning bidder shall take the possession of the property without seeking assistance from Pag-IBIG FUND.
5. All bidders are advised to visit/inspect the properties for bidding before posting their bid proposals.
6. If the bidder who submitted the best offer refuses to push through with the purchase of the property for which he / she BIDDED during and after the bidding, his/her deposit shall be FORFEITED and failure of bidding shall be declared.
7. All awards by the Bidding Committee shall be subject to the approval / confirmation of the VP-NCR Housing Operations, North Sector / Manager - Acquired Asset Management, North Sector.

HDMF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY INFORMA LITY THEREIN OR ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE FUND. THE DECISION OF THE FUND IS FINAL AND BINDING.

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3BR / 1 Parking
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P700T 10% D/P RFO 1st class dev't Calamba 09184539350

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RENT2OWN 9T/mo.
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CONDO/TWNHSE

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SAN JUAN

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BELLAGIO Global City
1BR 61sqm Golf View
BIG DSCNT! LT 09176084909

PACIFIC TWR 23m² Rush!
w/income embasy 09189392979

VARIED AREAS

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LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA274m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MANILA

1129SM Apacible cor Agoncillo Ermita T8885608

MANDALUYONG

Lot Edsa 400m² 645-3731

PASIG

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RIZAL

145m²/144m² BIRMINGHAM Sunrise, San Mateo 4271125

BEVERLY HILLS 832SQ.M P2500/SQM T8425621

LOT

VARIED AREAS

RUSH TAGAYTAY WITH CLEAN TITLE 271 SQM ALONG DIOKNO HWAY TAGAYTAY ROYALE BATULAO EVER CREST CHATEAU
P1.0 M NEG.
899-0611 Josie

CONDO/TWNHSE

SAN JUAN

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OTHER AREAS

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

150m² 3K/m² 30%DP bal 5yrs Del 4543135

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

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CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m² FA198.90m² 5br P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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MAKATI-Legaspi Vill 2BR W/ Pkg unf 15T+ T-09167855507

NEW STUDIO / Coml / 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mkti 843-9418-0918 9390355 Rose

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PARANAQUE

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Ghills FF Stu P11T 928-9835

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•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of Roman Aquino Adjudicated by his surviving heir Margarita Aquino with TCT#51748 DOC.#217, PAGE#44, BOOK#I Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Carlos R. Magistrado of Cam. S u r
(PDI Nov.21,28 Dec. 5, 2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CONRADO S. REYES has been extrajudicially partitioned among his heirs as per Doc No 48 Page No 10 Book No 22 Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty Rolando Bernardo of Q.C.
(PDI-Nov 28. Dec 5&12 2004)

The estate of the late ERIBERTO FONTANILLA was settled by its lone heir who executed an Affidavit of Adjudication entered as Doc. #189 Page #44 Book #44 Series of 2004 by Notary Public DOMINADOR LIBATIQUE, Jr. of Makati
(PDI- Nov. 28, Dec. 5 & 12, 2004)

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E-mail: bundan831@yahoo.com

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We are the largest private rural financial institution in Luzon. We have assets of over Php1.4 billion and a workforce of over 500 employees. We have a presence in twelve provinces covering Regions 1 to 5. We are in need of young, promising, and confident officers for branch banking operations and head office work.

1. BRANCH MANAGERS (3)
- Residents of Pampanga and Pangasinan
- Single, 28-40 years old
- Have at least 2 years of banking experience in operations
- Must demonstrate extensive marketing network in their place of residence

2. MARKETING/PRODUCT MANAGER (2)
- Residents of Metro Manila or Nueva Ecija
- Single, 28 to 35 years old
- Have at least 2 years of marketing experience, preferably in banking industry
- Must demonstrate ability to do market research, product development, sales force management, and sales monitoring
- Sales experience a plus factor

3. FINANCE/TREASURY MANAGER (1)
- Resident of Metro Manila
- Single or married, 28 to 40 years old
- With accounting experience, preferably CPA
- Have at least four years of treasury experience in a top financial institution
- Must demonstrate ability to manage financial assets with agreed upon ROI's
- Shall be based in Ortigas Center Head Office

4. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICERS (2)
- Residents of Metro Manila or Nueva Ecija
- Single, 24 to 30 years old
- Have at least 2 years software development experience using Visual Basic and Java
- Must demonstrate flexibility and willingness to handle assignments anywhere in Luzon
- Shall be based in Ortigas Center Head Office

Mail your cover letter, resumé, 2x2 ID, and transcript of records c/o HRMD DEPT., PRODUCERS BANK CENTER, MAHARLIKA HIGHWAY, SANGITAN, CABANATUAN CITY, NUEVA ECIJA 3100. Deadline is December 10, 2004.

GEUMWHA PSC COMPANY LTD.
KOREA

URGENTLY NEEDS 20 TIG WELDERS
(Under the Employment Permit System)

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:
- Male, 18-39 years old
- Two (2) years experience in Tig Welding, preferably with plant experience
- Able to pass technical skills test and oral interview to be conducted by the employer
- Willing and able to enter Korea by January 18, 2005
- Have no record of violation of Korea's Immigration Act (for ex-Korea applicants)

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT
Base salary approximately 882,000 Korean Won based on 294 working hours Accommodation, meals and transportation for commuting to work provided (apart from monthly salary)
Extra pay for overtime
Additional pay rate: 50%

Interested applicants should register at WINDOW M Manpower Registry Division, Ground Floor, BLAS F. OPLE Bldg. (formerly POEA Bldg.) Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City and submit in a creme folder detailed resumé with job description specifying the name of projects, duties, responsibilities, both domestic and overseas; one (1) 2x2 picture colored, white background, certificate of employment

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION : 10 DECEMBER 2004
DATE OF INTERVIEW : 16 DECEMBER 2004
Bring passport or driver's license

"Mag-Ingat sa mga Illegal Recruiters"

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

(Sgd.) **NIMFA D. DE GUZMAN**
Director II
Government Placement Branch

Rush Sale only P42000.- !!!

HP Pavilion N5270 Notebook
(used last 1 left.)
Included is a Samsonite full leather bag All software is included,all cables are included, everything works great!!
Everything fits in the case.
Specifications: Processor: 700MHz Intel Pentium 3
Memory: 256MB RAM
Hard drive: 20GB enhanced-IDE Optical drive: 8x DVD,CD Display
15-inch SXGA+ TFT (1024 x 768)
Network: Integrated 10/100BASE-T Ethernet LAN (RJ-45 connector)
DVD/CD Combination: 8X DVD-ROM and 24X CD 20G Hard Drive, 256MB Memory upgradeable

Pls. call 9264777 or 0919-2142401 look for Joan

USAID

DISPOSAL SALE

USAID/Manila will conduct a Sealed Bid Sale of used residential appliances, on an "AS IS-WHERE-IS" basis.

Washers	Dryers	Refrigerators
Gas Ranges	Water Heaters	Window type Air Conditioners
Air Cleaners	Vacuum Cleaners	Microwave Ovens
Desk Fans	Bug Zappers	Other miscellaneous items

All items can be inspected and bid placed on December 13 and 14, 2004, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Location: **Warehouse, 2345 Aurora Blvd., (formerly Tramo St.) Pasay City.** Bid forms are available at the site. Submission of bids and cash deposits (20% of the total bid) are done at the site during the sale. Full payment and bid deposit refunds will be on December 16 and 17, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USAID/Cashier, 8th floor, PNB Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

For further information, please call Mr. Romy Arquisola or Mr. Allan Daluz at Tel. Nos. 852-9684, 514-4229, 514-4234 and 514-4236.

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Nelly Montilla vda. de Lovina

died on December 4, 2004

Her bereaved sons : **Ramon Jr.** and **Georgia Paterno; Roberto** and **Bernadette Paterno; Vicente** and **Isabel Lovina;** and **Manolo** (†) and **Marylou Lovina**

Her grandchildren : **Pia Paterno; Mia** and **Eugie Rodriguez; Chiqui** and **Michelle Paterno; Jaime Paterno** (†); **Mikel Lovina** (†); **Ines Lovina; Macrina Lovina;** and **Marta Lovina**

Her great grandchildren : **Krisanne, Christian** and **Christopher** (†) **Santos; Rykee, Arianna, Alessandro,** and **Nadia Rodriguez;** and **Marty** and **Noelle Paterno**

request prayers for her eternal repose.

There will be a Mass for her on Sunday, December 5, 2004, at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel of the Sampaguita studios at 27 Ortigas Avenue Extension, Quezon City, after which her ashes will be flown to Pulupandan, Negros Occidental, for interment.

"Let me see your face when I awake
let me be filled with your presence." **Psalm 17:15**

Engr. Florante R. Arcinas

Manager

Administrative and Power Generation Department
Isabela Electric Cooperative

Died in the grace of the Lord
at the age of 53 on December 1, 2004.

His loving wife **Rosemarie (Po)**, their children **Rommel, Roderick** and **Laura Krisma**, his mother **Antonia**, his brothers and sisters and their spouses, **Edwin** and **Zeny, Gary** and **Aleg, Anthony** and **Minda, Bini** and **Rene, Grin, Percy** and **Mel**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Alicia, Isabela.

Interment will be on Tuesday, December 7, 2004, after the 8 a.m. Mass at Our Lady of Atocha Parish Church in Alicia, Isabela.

Message of Thanks

We, the family and relatives of the late

ABELARDO V. SANTOS

who joined his Creator on November 26, 2004

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

CLASSIFIEDS

Subic Bay Golf & Country Club
Bldg. 6900 Binictican Drive, SBFZ,
Olongapo City, Philippines
Tel.: (047) 252-1588 to 89

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

GOLF EVENTS COORDINATING MANAGER

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferably male and physically fit
- Must have at least three years experience
- Must be a golfer
- Must know how to organize tournaments and golf events
- With knowledge in the golf scoring system
- With good communication skills, customer service oriented
- Decisive and willing to work long hours
- Must know how to train and handle caddies
- Willing to be assigned in Subic

MARKETING SUPERVISOR

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Preferably female, not more than 30 years of age
- Must have some experience in events coordination
- Knowledge in gold is an advantage
- Good communication skills and good PR
- Willing to work long hours and be assigned in Subic
- Willing to work long hours and be assigned in Subic
- Good in market survey, marketing plan and team building

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé to:

SUBIC BAY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
c/o Administration Department
Bldg. 6900 Binictican Drive
Subic Bay Feeeport Zone 222
Olongapo City

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Social Welfare and Development
Batasan Pambansa Complex,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City
Telephone No. 931-8101 to 07

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No. GOP/04-DSWD-009

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested bidders for eligibility and to bid for the **Printing and Delivery of Learning Materials for Day Care Centers**. The beneficiaries of the 5,000 sets of learning materials shall be the day care centers/workers from the municipalities of the 1st District of Bohol. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is Two Million Pesos (Php 2,000,000.00).

Bidding Documents will be available starting December 1, 2004, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00). The bidding procedures shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). Prospective bidders may obtain further information from the **Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat** at 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City with telephone no. 951-7116, Mondays through Fridays, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (look for Dennis P. Manila or Angelene DP. Arabit).

A **Pre-Bid Conference** is scheduled on December 9, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. to be held at the Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DSWD Central Office, Constitution Hills, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission and opening of bids will be on December 21, 2004, 2:00 p.m. at Administrative Conference Room, 2nd Floor DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City. **Late bids will not be accepted.**

The DSWD assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **MARGARITA SAMPANG**
Director IV and
Vice-Chairperson, BAC-II

(PDI - Nov 28 & Dec. 5, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE NUCLEAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Address: Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box Nos. 213 U.P. Quezon City; 932 Manila;
1314 Central, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. 929-6010 to 19 Fax No. 920-1646

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) is inviting all interested bidders for our forthcoming public bidding for:

ONE (1) UNIT X-RAY CALIBRATION SYSTEM WITH ACCESSORIES

ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	: NOV. 30, 2004
PRE-BID CONFERENCE	: DEC. 7, 2004
SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	: DEC. 8, 2004
BIDDING	: DEC. 17, 2004

APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT IS EIGHT MILLION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND PESOS (P8,379,000.00).

For inquiries interested parties may contact the BAC Secretariat at Tel. Nos. 929-60-11 to 19 loc. 275 (c/o Julie Mendoza) or visit our website at http://www.pnri.dost.gov.ph

The Bids and Awards Committee and the Institute reserve the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect thereto, accept bids or may be deemed advantageous thereto or postpone the bidding for whatever cause it may deem proper.

In case of failure, a re-bidding shall automatically be scheduled five (5) calendar days after the announcement of failed bidding at the same time and place at the first bidding.

(Sgd.) **CORAZON C. BERNIDO, Ph.D.**
Deputy Director and Chairperson,
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 28 & Dec. 5, 2004)

Immigrate to Nova Scotia (Canada)
NOVA SCOTIA NOMINEE PROGRAM

CSIC Licensed Canadian Immigration Consultant **Ms. Marie Deltz** will be in Manila on December 20, 2004 to January 7, 2005

FOR PROSPECTIVE IMMIGRANTS W/ A NETWORTH OF $300,000 TO $799,000, & AT LEAST 3 YEARS OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE
CIC IS CURRENTLY PROCESSING MEDICAL & SECURITY CHECKS FOR NOMINEE APPLICATIONS WITHIN A 6-9 MONTH PERIOD.

Please contact our office to get the details and make your reservations.

Standard Immigration Services Inc.
Tel: 721-3738; 0917/817-1827; 0917/481-4186
E-Mail: standardphilippines@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF LOSS OF CERTIFICATES OF STOCK

Notice is hereby given that the following Stock Certificates of Bank of the Philippine Islands Incorporated were lost by Mesco Express Service Corporation while in transit for delivery pursuant to formal declaration/affidavit of its President, Gloria Mosura duly registered as Doc No 451, Page No 92, Book No. 3, Series of 2004 in the Notarial Registry of Atty Federico Florendo Jr., Notary Public for and in Las Piñas City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

STOCK CERT. #	NO. OF SHARES	CLIENT NAME
1 234483	65	Lydia G Pollero
2 233111	31	Myra Aquino Lee
3 230272	66	Ben A Bartolome
4 230190	85	Rogelio N. Bulantakbo
5 229857	129	Consuelo Merlyn Alvarez
6 234902	31	Milagros Abad Raniog
7 236160	36	Ma Theresa Tombocon
8 234794	124	Arthur Ybanez Pusta

Any person who may be in possession of said Certificates is hereby requested to present or notify any of the following 1. The Corporate Secretary of Bank of the Philippine Islands Inc 2 MESCO Express Service Corp , at Blk 5 Lot 11 Casimiro Townhomes II Admiral Road, Las Piñas City 3 BPI Stock Transfer Dept Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Ave , Makati City FAILURE TO PRESENT NOR SERVE NOTICE REGARDING SAID CERTIFICATES OF STOCK WILL CAUSE ITS CANCELLATION AND ANOTHER SHALL BE ISSUED IN LIEU OF THE ONE LOST ONE (1) YEAR AFTER THIS PUBLICATION pursuant to the provisions of the Corporation Code

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MS. MICHELLE C. TATEL** is no longer connected with **C. F. SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT, INC.** effective **November 18, 2004.**

All transactions entered into by the person stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

Send your resumé instantly.

JOB Market
www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE – ADVERTISING

Qualifications:
- College graduate preferably Marketing or any Business course
- Knowledge in basic computer operations
- Interpersonal skills, Report Writing skills, Presentation skills, Filing skills, Communication skills

Responsibility:
- Responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with clients and ad agencies with the end view of soliciting ad placement to meet overall sales quota.

AUDIT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Accounting graduate, preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 2 years experience in auditing
- Preferably from reputable auditing firms
- Knowledge of General Accounting & Auditing Principles & Procedures
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing
- Knowledge of Financial Data analysis, Taxation & Labor Laws
- Analytical skills, Team player, can promote & implement appropriate process improvements
- Knowledge of auditing systems in newspaper industry

Responsibilities:
- Perform audit procedures, organize working papers, prepare and communicate reports based on results of audit examinations.
- Assisting in identifying risk, evaluating controls and preparing audit plans/ programs.

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

MARKETING INFORMATION OFFICER

Qualifications:
- Graduate of 4 year Business course, Management Information Systems or any relevant course
- 2 years marketing experience
- Knowledge in market research, product price, distribution and promotions strategies and its implementation.
- Creative Writing Skills, Ability to analyze the market and ability to organize, leadership skills, Interaction Management Skills & computer skills
- Familiar with database management systems
- Has experience in developing wireless promotions.

Responsibilities:
- Responsible for the administration of the encoding and compiling of database derived from various mediums for brand use. Also responsible for managing and developing the wireless and text promotion for brands in order to assist in achieving sales targets

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Preferably male, at least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:
- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR information system

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue
(formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets,
Makati City

E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

Hingemedia, inc.

Hinge Media Inc., a dynamic company engaged in the publication of high-quality magazines, is in immediate need of the following :

Marketing Manager

1. Responsibility
- Directly responsible for all the marketing, promotions and event initiatives of the publications
- Conceptualizes, develops, manages and implements marketing activities of the company
- Capable of conceptualizing and/ or designing in-store collaterals and merchandising materials

2. Requirements:
- Must possess a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Mass Communications, Marketing, Advertising/ Media or the equivalent
- Preferably with two years experience in sales & marketing, specializing in publishing & printing or the equivalent
- Exemplary communication & presentation skills
- Female, 25 to 35 yrs. old, aggressive & hardworking

Marketing Assistant

1. Responsibility
- Will report directly to the Marketing Supervisor in coordinating all marketing, promotions, and event initiatives and will provide assistance in conceptualization, execution and monitoring of marketing programs
- Flexible, dynamic, aggressive and able to work with minimal supervision
- Prepares reports for both pre and post event updates and able to handle multiple projects

2. Requirements:
- Male, 23 to 30 yrs. old, aggressive & hardworking
- Must possess a Bachelor's/ College Degree in Mass Communications, Marketing, Advertising/ Media or the equivalent
- Very good interpersonal and communication skills
- Proficient in the use of MS office applications

Account Executive

1. Responsibility
- The Account Executive will be directly responsible for soliciting advertisements for commercial publications

2. Requirements:
- Female, 23 to 30 yeas old, aggressive and hardworking
- Must be a graduate of any four-year course from a reputable university
- Must have at least 2 years of sales experience in the industry. Those with less than 2 years work experience need not apply
- Must possess excellent verbal and written English and Filipino communication skills
- Must have strong, persuasive presentation skills

Applicants are required to personally bring resume, two (2) pieces 2" x 2" photos, transcript of records, and any valid ID. Interested parties may visit our office from Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 12noon at 2304-05 Cityland Herrera Tower, 98 Herrera corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Philippines tel. no. 813 6848

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation

2228 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 841-4000-30; Fax No. 841-4909; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph;

SPECIAL DISPOSITION COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites interested bidders to purchase on cash basis only by way of SEALED BIDS the following property:

DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
Seven (7) contiguous parcels of lot, with improvements thereon and a total net usable area of 2,011.24 sq. mtrs.	Taft Avenue Extension, Barangay 59, Sta. Clara District, Pasay City, adjacent to Iglesia Filipina Independiente and the LRT Libertad Station. The Property was the former site of Banco Primero Development Bank.	PHP 66 MM

Complete description/specifications of the property, Conditions of Bid, bid forms and other related documents, shall be made available for a fee of P 500.00 to interested bidders from December 6 to 15, 2004 at the Office of the Secretariat, Special Disposition Committee, at the Ground Floor, PDIC Building, 2228 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. For further details, please contact Engr. Ernesto R. Torres, Jr. at telephone number 841-4000 local 4902.

Sealed bids shall be dropped at the Bid Box located at the Secretariat Extension Office, 8th floor, PDIC Ayala Extension Office, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City not later than 2:00 P.M. on December 16, 2004. The bids shall be labelled "Special Disposition Committee, PDIC Makati City".

Bidder's deposit equivalent to 10% of the bid price in Certified Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to PDIC must be enclosed with the sealed bid.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to accept any bid, or to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated, is the most beneficial to PDIC.

PDIC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of the bid nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(PDI - Dec. 3, 4 & 5, 2004)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on December 9, 2004, 2:00 p.m., Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City for the following properties:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
BULACAN			
AM-PY-286	Along Cagayan Valley Road, Brgy. Tambubong, San Rafael	6 contiguous lots (TCT Nos. T-167376 to T-167381 total area of 45,997 m²	P 44,200,000.00
OZAMIZ			
AM-CP-287	Along National Highway, Brgy. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	5 contiguous lots (TCT Nos. T-26086-T-26088, T-26090 & T-26092) total area of 22,262 m² w/ ricemill bldg. & imp.	P 84,113,850.00
TARLAC			
AM-ED-288a	Along McArthur Highway, Brgy. Estrada, Capas	2 contiguous lots (TCT Nos. 361740 & 361741) total area of 25,155 m² w/ bldg. & imp	P 18,405,000.00
AM-ED-288b	-do	Various machinery & eqpt. for brick-making (sale on "as-is where-is" basis)	P 3,000.00 to 56,800.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office, Makati City; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2218/2252.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI-Dec. 4 & 5, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Project Description : Minor Repair Works of One (1) Ecolmare Grancevola Boat
Minor repair works of the engine, hydraulic system and fuel system including materials and labor.

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), through Republic Act No. 9206 (RA No. 9206) otherwise known as the General Appropriations Act of 2002 as reenacted for 2004, intends to apply the sum of Nine Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Three Hundred Sixty Two Pesos (Php934,362.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for Minor Repair Works of One (1) Ecolmare Grancevola Boat. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PRRC now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Repair of One (1) Ecolmare Grancevola Boat. Minor repair works is required to be completed within 30 calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines as specified in RA No. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check shall be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the Project. The Contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from PRRC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Nine Thousand Pesos (Php9,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash or manager's check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

PRRC shall hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested Parties on December 14, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the MMDA Waterways Group Area, Philippine Security Group, Malacañang Complex, Manila

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below at or before December 27, 2004 at exactly 12:00 noon. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amounts. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2.5%)

*Bid opening shall be on December 27, 2004, 3:00 p.m. at the PRRC Conference Room. Bids shall be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend

The PRRC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-3446
E-mail Address: prrc@tri-isys.com
Fax No. 926-6449

(PDI-Nov. 29 & Dec. 5, 2004)

Restaurant Business for Sale

Fully Furnished within Intramuros near Letran, Lyceum, PLM, and Mapua

Excellent Business Opportunity
For inquiries, please call or text Gerardo Cornejo 0918-9351615

Passion

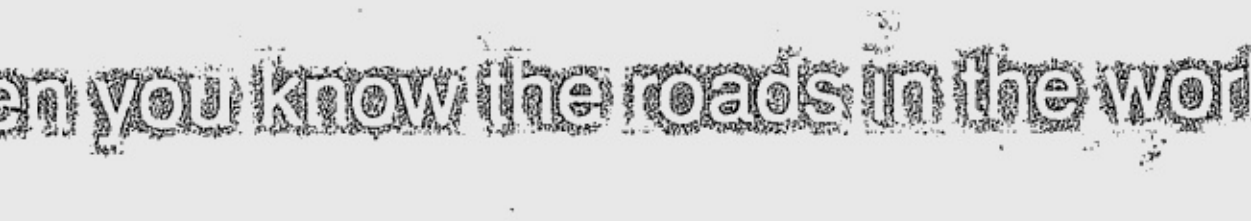
When you know the roads in the world...

You know how to make the latest advanced-engineered engine.

To set a new benchmark for the world automotive industry, this is the goal of Toyota's Global Quality Project. As part of this project, was an introduction of the first Toyota common rail engine in Japan today, driven by its passion to innovation Toyota is proud to introduce the D-4D common rail Engine undoubtedly the most advanced diesel engine today.

Unlike earlier diesel engine models, the D-4D common Rail engine is able to constantly supply high pressurized fuel injection at all speed ranges, enabling perfect combustion. The results are increased power, less engine noise, cleaner emissions and perfect fuel efficiency.

The new D-4D common Rail engine by Toyota is in a class of its own, created to achieve the perfect driving experience.



New D-4D Common Rail VN turbo Intercooler

GLOBAL QUALITY PROJECT

- *Home*
- *Travel*
- *Weddings*
- *Surprises*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

DECEMBER 5, 2004

Text your feedback:
inquirer life name/city/message to 2207
(Globe) and 386 (Smart)
email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor
Chelo Banal-Formoso

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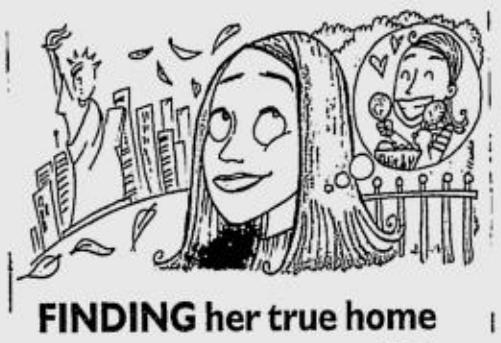
HANOI'S Temple of Literature /F1

FAMOUS 7 sails off /H2



FINDING her true home /I1

SEA Princess rides the charity party wave /I2

EASY Sunday reads /J1

THE NEXT Eugene Torre? /L1

The mother of all bridal fairs

Featuring 13 top designers,
'Wedding March at the NBC Tent' is touted to be
the standard-setting wedding expo of next year

Story on page C4

GOWN by Eddie Baddeo

EDWIN TUYAY

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BRIDE'S FAMILY. Joyce Tan-Williams, engineer Jovito Tan, the bride, Josefina Tan and engineer Joseph Tan

WITH FRIENDS and wedding coordinators. Angie Galang, Jerome Javier, Chris Tungol, May Cerdan, Benny Cano, Bobot Casingal, Jojo Salegumba and Lucy Pioquinto

ZAFRA-TAN NUPTIALS

A wedding woven in piña and silk

WEDDING cake by Jerry Gavilan

IT was a well-crafted ceremony delicately constructed like an exquisite fabric with every strand in place. The solemn wedding celebration was a weaving together of the threads of life of Dr. Adrian Meñez Zafra and Dr. Josievitz Umali Tan, integrating and interconnecting, too, the life of their relatives and friends.

The elegant nuptial rites were held on the Feast Day of Guardian Angels at Nuestra Señora de Gracia Chapel in Guadalupe Viejo, Mandaluyong City, officiated by Bishop Gabriel V. Reyes, Bishop Raul Q. Martirez, Msgr. Antonio B. Unson and Msgr. Alex A. Meñez.

The trend-setting reception at the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Peninsula was a memorable experience shared and enjoyed by the couple's immediate family and social circle, particularly engineer Mario L. Zafra and lawyer Amelia A. Meñez-Zafra, and engineer Jovito H. Tan and Josefina E. Umali-Tan, Ian's and Josie's parents, respectively.

Lending the couple support were close relatives and associates like engineer Armand Meñez Zafra, Ian's brother, who also was his best man, Ma. Cristina G. Tungol, Josie's cousin, who was the maid of honor.

Some of their principal sponsors were Dean Amalia V. Angeles, Dr. Robert I. Eustaquio, Dr. Jaime F. Flor, Dr. Paul M. Murry, lawyer Rodrigo U. Makalinao, Remedios S. Umali, Angelita C. Joven, Edith R. Sanchez and Ian's aunt, Ruth Tirol Jarantilla, who gave the couple a week's stay at her Seawind resort in Boracay.

Predominant fabric

Piña silk was the predominant fabric used by members of the wedding entourage and most of the guests. The material was provided by Albert A. Meñez, Ian's uncle who is based in Kalibo, Aklan, the main source of the exquisite, gossamer-like fabric. *Piña* cloth is tediously handwoven by weavers in Aklan out of the strings of fibers taken from the leaves of the native *piña* that's endemic only in Panay. The finished fabrics are then embroidered mostly in Lumban, Laguna.

Almost all of the gowns were designed by Armando Geron, especially those worn by the bride, the maid of honor and the bridesmaids. The sponsors mentioned wore either *piña* silk or pure *piña* gowns designed by other couturiers. For instance, Vicky Meñez-Ramos had on a Patis Tesoro *kimona*-inspired terno with flailing sleeves and elaborate beadwork.

NEWLYWEDS
Ian and Josie Zafra

THE COUPLE with their parents, engineer Jovito and Josefina Tan, and engineer Mario L. Zafra and lawyer Amelia A. Meñez-Zafra

Ian Zafra and Josie Tan's tryst at the altar was an occasion to showcase a proud family heritage

Former General Santos City Mayor Adel Antonino was in *piña* barong. So, too, were former Ambassador Dominado C. Meñez and Ian's uncle-priest, Msgr. Alex A. Meñez. Monsignor Alex wore a pure *piña* barong made of distinctive *sinuksok* cloth, referring to a laborious method of embedding embroidered patterns into the cloth while it is still being webbed.

Rep. Florencio T. Miraflores wore a *piña* silk barong, while the left-wing Bayan chair and now Rep. Teddy I. Casiño was in a bourgeois *piña* silk barong. In ironic contrast, Fenny C. Tatad was in an elegantly simple tunic.

The stunning Enriqueta V. Doble was in a splendid metallic gown made with a blend of *piña* and gold threads, while Bong M. Tirol was in his classic chic business attire.

Aside from the representatives of the business, politics and religious sectors, there were also friends and relatives like Albert Quimpo, Cel Reyes-Tinagan, Susan Mirto-Flor, Katipunan de los Reyes, Paul M. Icamina, Ernesto O. Macaisa, Engracio T. Suarez, and Joyce Tan-Williams, from the corporate, diplomatic, information, pharmaceutical and media circles, indicative indeed of the couple's wide and extensive social support system.

Groomsmen were Dominic A. Medenilla and Michael S. Santos; bridesmaids were Ma. Rosario D. Peralta and Ma. Victoria C. Lopez. Candle sponsors were Mark Anthony M. Meñez and Regeena S. Umali; veil sponsors were engineer Joseph U. Tan and Ma. Angelina O. Galang, while the cord sponsors were Wilfredo L. Lacuna and Renee S. Novella. In *piña* silk all, they gave Ian and Josie's social fabric more variety, pizzazz and glamour.

Family trade

Ian is actually a descendant of the Acevedo-Meñez clan from Aklan that has flourished for three generations by trading the fine fabric. It is also significant that most of the materials used are a blend of *piña* and silk, since Josie is a scion of Bulacan's Chinese-descended Umali-Tan family. Silk, as everyone knows, is a staple fabric in Chinese life and culture.

Even more significant, Doña Pilar Meñez y Hontiveros-Acevedo, Ian's grandmother, was the first to blend *piña* silk in the late '70s. She was also the first to be commissioned by the government to revive the dying industry.

Doña Piling continued the business from her mother-in-law, Doña Matrona Meñez y Fernandez-Raz, the grand matriarch of *piña* trading at the beginning of the century. Doña Matron supplied Tesoro's and Viscara from her Azcaraga store during the prewar years. Even in the early '30s, she was already exporting to London and New York.

Ian's uncle, Aloysius A. Meñez, was instrumental in reviving the exotic *piña*-weaving techniques like *pili*, *ringue* and *suksok* with embedded leaves, floral, stripe and checkered designs in the early '80s, even before it became popular to have *piña* with designs and colors.

It was also Aloy who first experimented with using gold and colored threads for embedding woven ethnic patterns and dying *piña* cloths with natural colors using organic pigments. He, too, supplied Tesoro's, Viscara and Rustan's, which sold them to tourists and foreign buyers.

He also made the exotic fabric haute couture material by supplying Manila couturiers like Ben Farrales, Pitoy Moreno, Joe Salazar, Edgar Aquino, Budji Layug, Leny Laurel, Gang Gomez, Patis Tesoro and more.

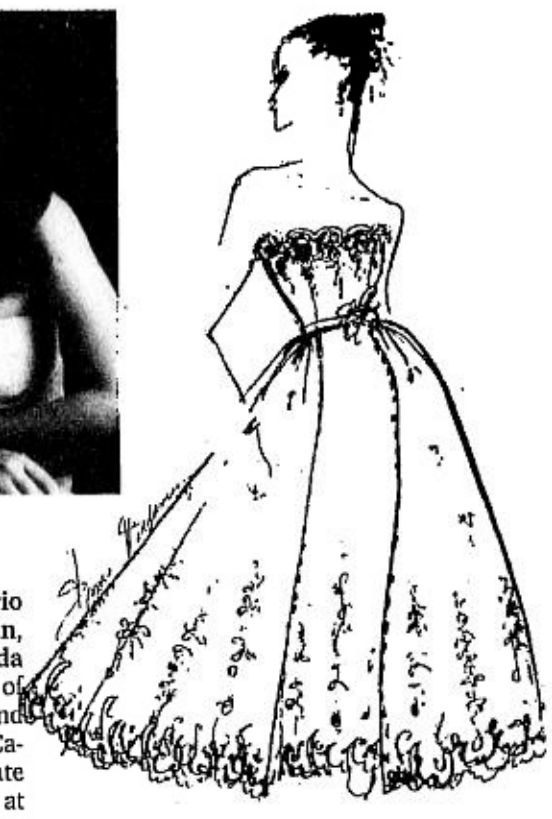
During the reception, a wonderful post-banquet advice was given Ian and Josie by Msgr. Alex A. Meñez. He told the couple to dress well for any occasion by wearing *piña*, as it is the hallmark of the clan. He recalled that Pitoy Moreno, when asked "if he was to fashion clothes for God, what material would he use," supposedly had answered "*piña*."

BISHOP Gabriel Reyes, Bishop Raul Martirez, Msgr. Alex Menez and Msgr. Antonio Unson

WITH the secondary sponsors

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



BARAOIDAN DEBUT

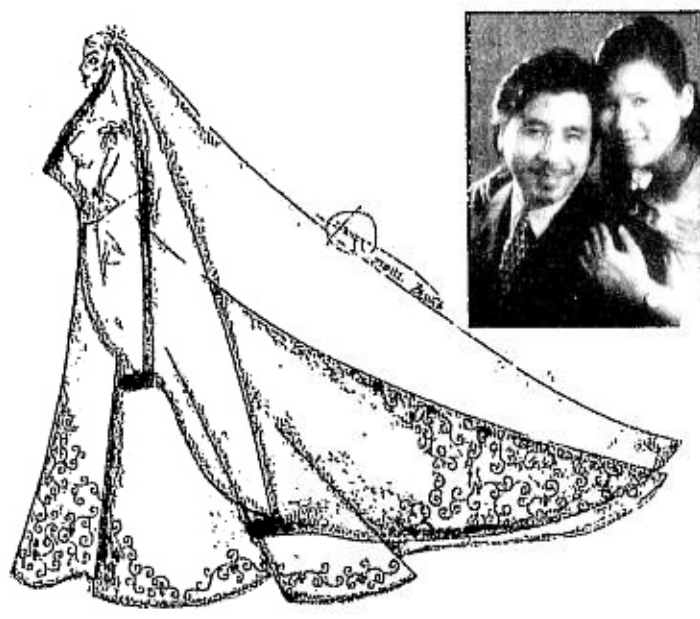
Celina Rosario Arao Baraoidan, firstborn of **Imelda Baraoidan-Halili** of Quezon City and Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, will celebrate her 18th birthday at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Rembrandt, QC, on Dec. 12.

The debutante will wear a powder-blue ball gown designed and executed by **Ernie Villamin,** inspired by the Audrey Hepburn film classic, "Sabrina." The tapered organdy bodice, as well as the matching detachable half-moon petticoat, is fully embroidered, richly embellished with Swarovski crystals and studded with sugar beads.

Events coordinator and cotillion choreographer for the occasion are **Jose Sy** and **Angelo Rivera,** respectively. Movie actress **Dexter Doria** and **Jojo Ventura** will host the celebration.

GUINO-RACELIS

Freida Racelis, daughter of **Wilfredo P. Racelis** (deceased) and lawyer **Aida A. Racelis,** will marry **Oliver Guino,** son of **Francisco M. Guino Sr.** and **Julita M. Guino,** on Dec. 8, 1 p.m., at Sta. Maria Goretti Parish Church, Pope Pius XII, U.N. Avenue, Manila. Reception will follow at Trader's Hotel Manila, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.



ABAD-MORAL

Maria Christela S. Moral, daughter of **Francisco L. Moral** and **Heide S. Moral,** will exchange marriage vows with **Gerard Martin F. Abad,** son of lawyer **Bonifacio M. Abad Jr.** and **Dr. Paz F. Abad,** on Dec. 8 at Fernwood Gardens' Chapel of St. Francis of Assissi, QC.

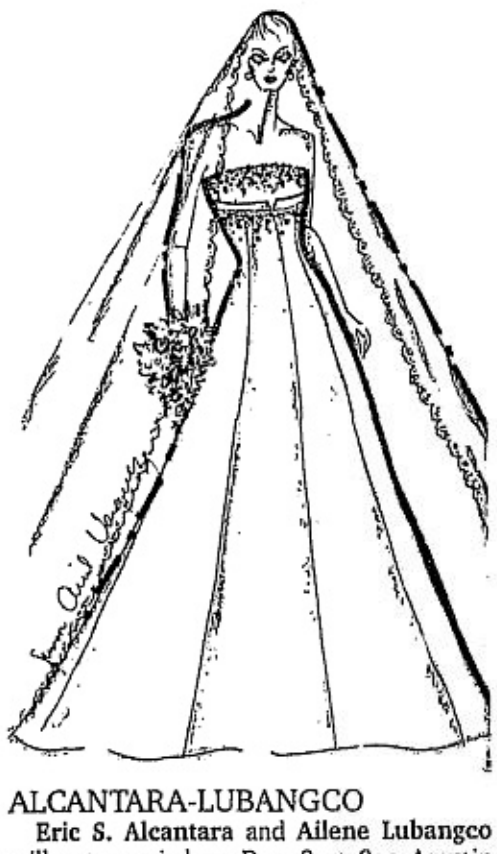
The bride will wear a creation by **Ariel Belga.**

REMO-PEREZ

Dinna Perez will marry **Dr. Melvin Remo** in an **Ito Curata** bridal gown on Dec. 11, 7 p.m., at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

The strapless *piña* gown is embroidered and beaded with pearls and Swarovski crystals. The bride is the daughter of **Rustica Liana vda. de Perez,** while the bridegroom is the son of **Lilia Asensi vda. de Remo.**

Reception will follow at the Basilica Pastoral Center.



ALCANTARA-LUBANGCO

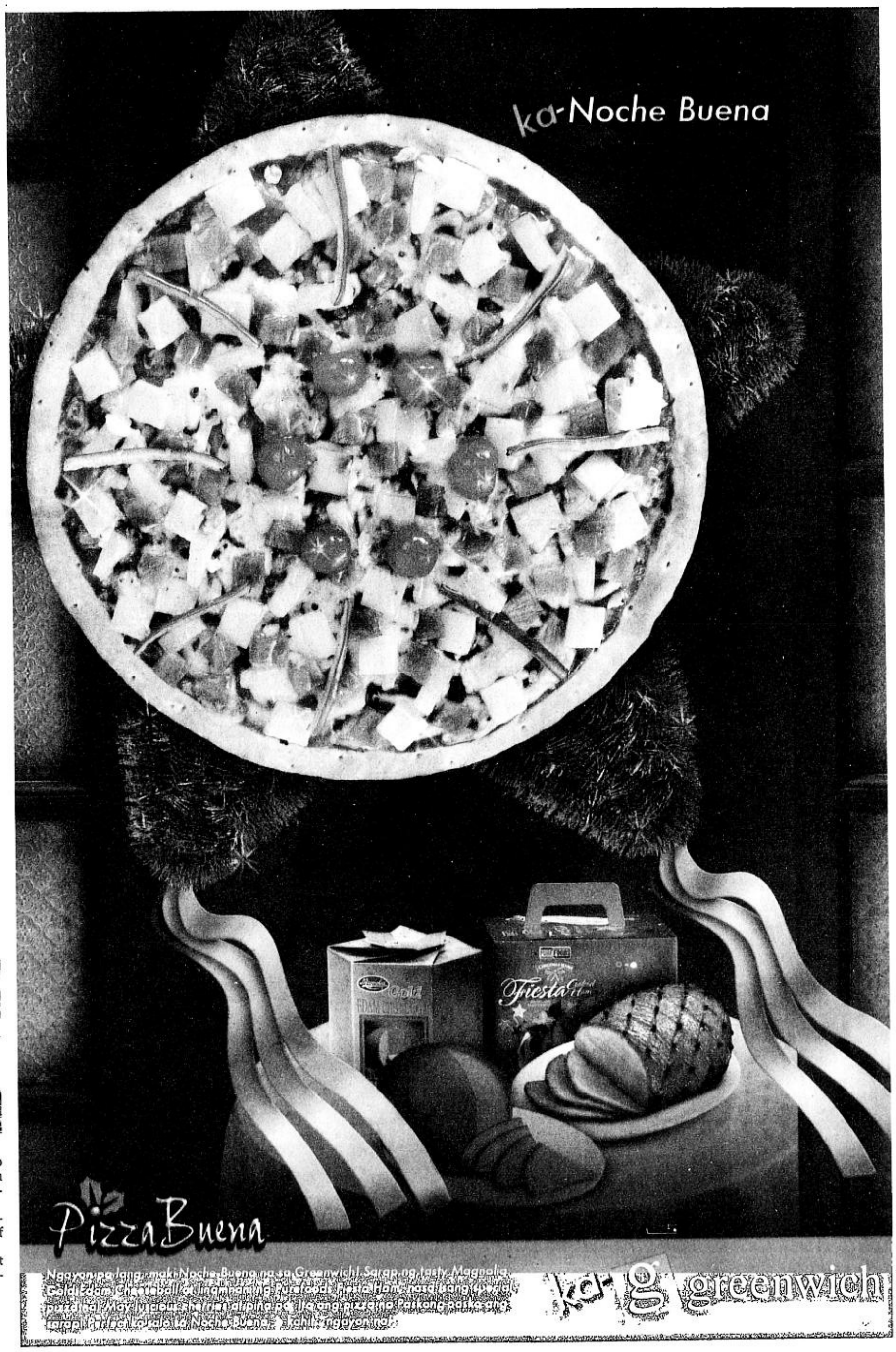
Eric S. Alcantara and **Ailene Lubangco** will get married on Dec. 8 at San Agustin Church, with the reception following at Ilustrado Restaurant.

The bride is the daughter of **Gloria** and **Renato Lubangco,** while the groom is the son of **Cristina** and **Enrique Alcantara.**

The bride will wear a tube empire-cut gown with beads and Swarovski crystals, designed by **Simon Ariel Vasquez.**

SANTAMARIA-ESCANO

Lawyer **Cesar E. Santamaria Jr.,** son of **Judge Cesar D. Santamaria** and **Carmelita E. Santamaria** of Quezon City, and **Jovyanne M. Escano,** daughter of **Jose U. Escano** (deceased) and **Priscilla M. Escano** of Rosario, Batangas, will exchange marital vows on Dec. 10, 3:30 p.m., at Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Jose. Reception will follow at Hotel InterContinental Manila, Makati City.



The mother of all bridal fairs

JOJIE LLOREN
1940s-inspired scoop-ne gown with an underskirt for a bustle effect at the back. Dyed tulle is used accent.

PHOTOS: EDWIN TUYAY AT BALUARTE DE SAN DIEGO, INTRAMUROS. MODEL AN

By Cheche V. Moral

TAKE this: 13 of the country's top designers, 26 fabulous creations, in one grand bridal show.

After successfully staging "Wedding March at the Glorietta" in January, Philippine Daily INQUIRER and cbv7 Media Master is gearing for its second outing, a bridal fair that promises to be bigger and grander in all scales.

The Sunday Lifestyle section of the country's most awarded newspaper and cbv7 Media Master, a bridal events company helmed by veteran photographer Chito Vecina, are all set to present their sophomore project early next year, a fitting sequel to their first venture that, so to speak, made a killing at the box office.

"Wedding March at the NBC Tent" on Jan. 22-23, 2005, is touted to be the bridal event that will set the standard for all wedding fairs next year. Apart from the bigger venue and the largest gathering of wedding suppliers, the organizers also got the nod of 13 of Manila's most respected designers to present their creations in a bridal fashion show dubbed "Evolutions: From the 1920s to the Present."

The show, to take centerstage on the evening of Jan. 23, will be directed by Raymund Villanueva.

Each of the 13 designers will present two designs each—one modern and one retro creation inspired by the decade of their choice, from the flapper-style of the 1920s to the years of excess in the 1980s.

Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Mike de la Rosa

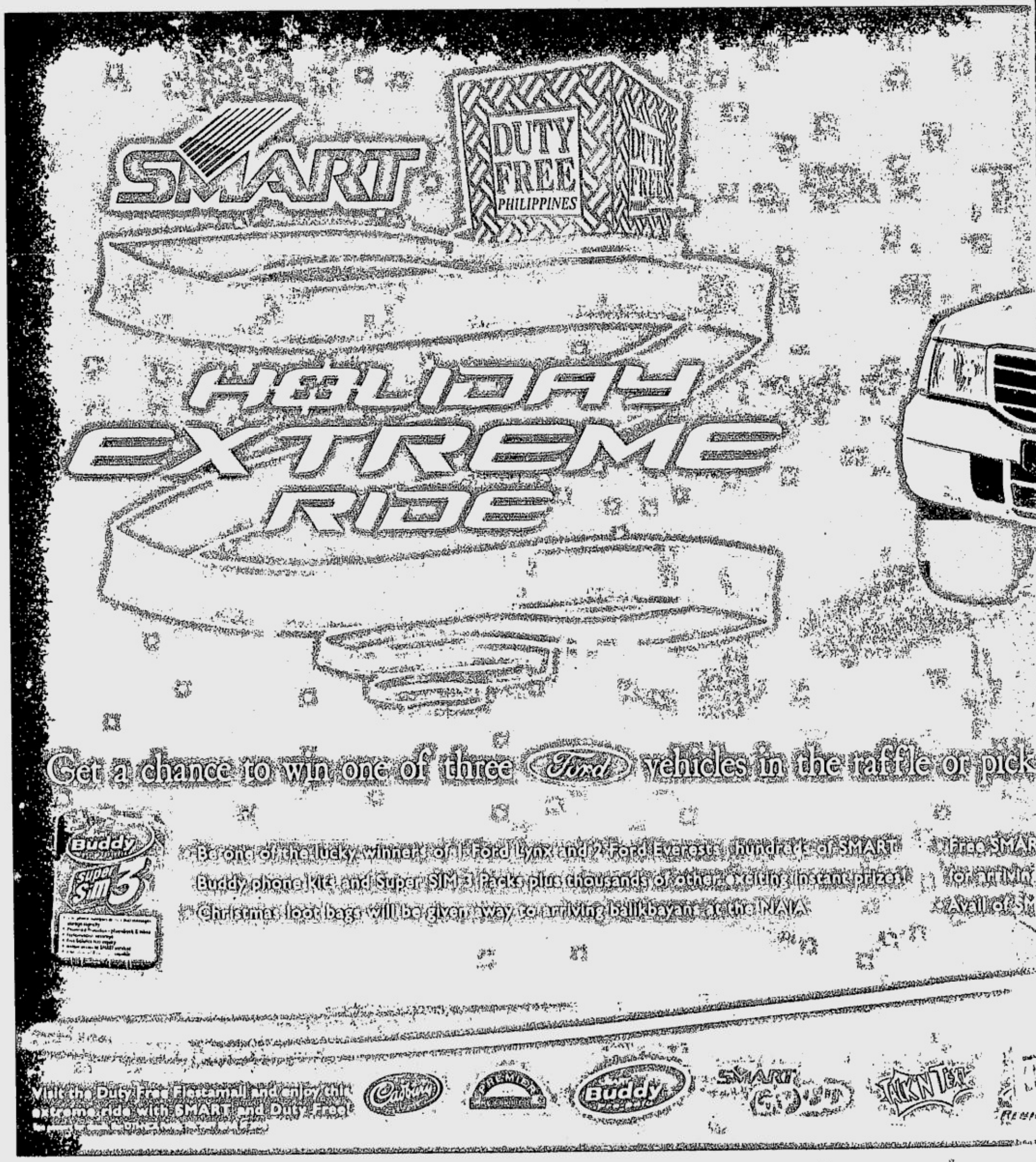


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PHOTO: EDWIN TUYAY AT MAKATI SHANGRI-LA'S RED. MODEL: KUKU TRINIDAD

EDDIE BADDEO
1980s-inspired serpentine gown with bustle collar and pillbox headdress

PHOTO: CHITO CLEOFAS AT PUERTA REAL, INTRAMUROS. MODEL: GEORGETTE PEÑA

PATRICE RAMOS-DIAZ
Corded and knotted two-layer gown in tulle and silk organdy

and Efren Ocampo will take the opportunity to get lost in their creative spots as they represent the Roaring '20s.

With a gown inspired by his grandmother's own, Eric Pineda will show a 1930s design with Art Deco influences.

Jojie . Lloren, known for his deft in construction, will represent the style from the wartime period of the '40s.

Well-represented

The glamorous '50s will be well-represented with creations by four designers, including the reclusive Auggie Cordero, or "Auggie Hepburn," as his colleagues like to call him, in obvious allusion to the couturier's adulation of the late Hollywood icon.

Inno Sotto, Cordero's equally respected contemporary, will also turn out a '50s-inspired number, alongside Frederick Peralta (who says the '50s were "when women wore clothes that enhanced their figure") and menswear designer Anthony Nocom.

The Swingin' '60s will be Rajo Laurel's turf, while relative newbie JC Buendia and veteran Loretto will each present their interpretation of a 1970s' bridal ensemble.

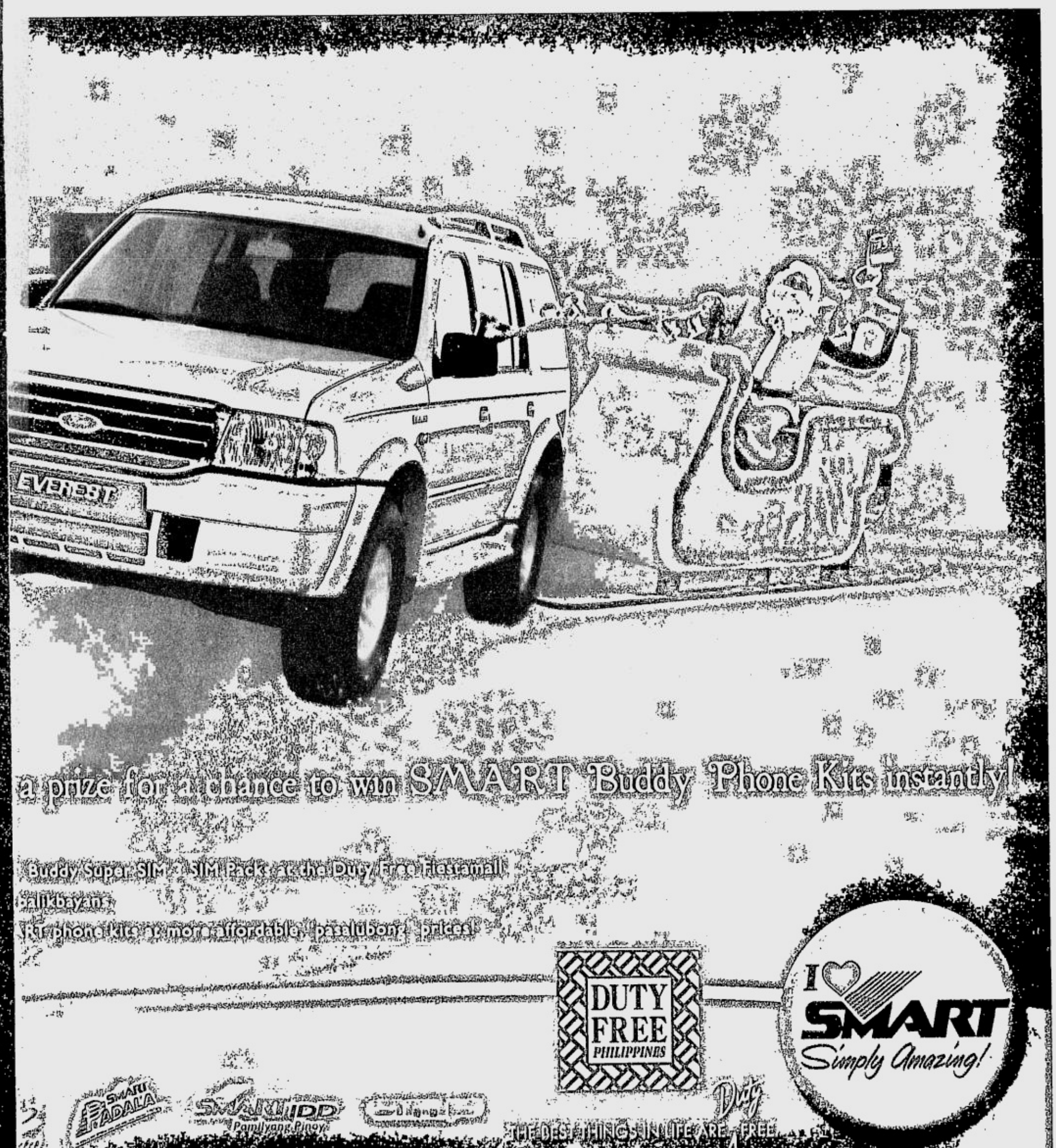
By his lonesome, Eddie Baddeo will show his take on the '80s bride.

(Sotto and Laurel were unable to send their designs for the promotional pictorial due to prior engagements.)

Premier makeup artist Patrick Rosas and his team will lend their expertise during the fashion show.

The two-day bridal affair will also present Rosas in "Petal Pusher: Bridal Hair and Makeup Trends," where, through a

THE MOTHER/ C6



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ERIC PINEDA
The bride's ensemble was based on Pineda's *lola*'s gown for her own wedding in the 1930s. It has a tulle overskirt with Art Deco-patterned satin embroidery. The hair pieces of the bride are also Art Deco-inspired. The groom wears a 1930s-style tuxedo.

AUGGIE CORDERO
Audrey Hepburn-inspired bouffant tulle skirt and a fully beaded bodice

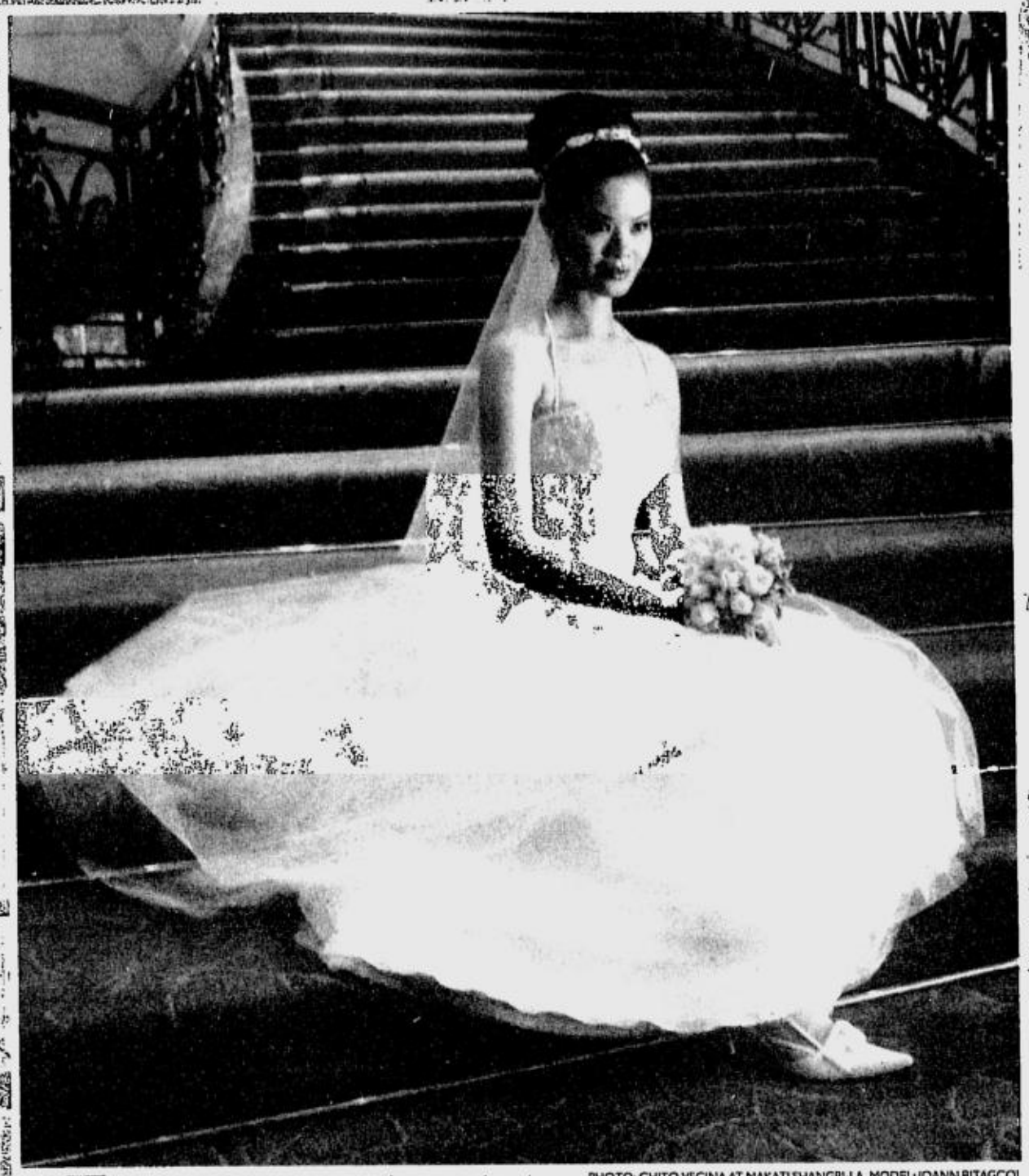


PHOTO: CHITO VECINA AT MAKATI SHANGRI-LA. MODEL: JOANN BITAGCOL

PHOTO: CHITO CLEOFAS AT ILUSTRADO CAFE BALLROOM, INTRAMUROS. MODELS: ANA LLOREN AND GARY DULATAS

The mother of all bridal fairs

JC BUENDIA
Off-white noodle-strap georgette dress with hanky-cut skirt sprinkled with beads

PHOTO: BERN MEJIAS AT CASA MANILA, INTRAMUROS. MODEL: ANA LLOREN

From page C4

photo exhibit, he will demonstrate the "return of blooms as hair accessories for weddings."

The event will also be the exhibit venue of the winners and finalists of the "Candid Wedding Photo" contest jointly sponsored by Canon and the INQUIRER's Sunday Lifestyle. *(See story and list of winners in an upcoming Sunday Lifestyle issue.)*

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

More photos on page C7

EFREN OCAMPO
Ruched tube bodice with a fully appliquéd skirt

PHOTO: EDWIN TUYAY AT ILUSTRADO CAFE COURTYARD, INTRAMUROS. MODEL: GEORGETTE PENA

LORETTO
Strapless gown with a full skirt and double-panel fully beaded train

PHOTO: EDWIN TUYAY AT MAKATI SHANGRI-LA BALLROOM. MODEL: JOANN BITAGCOL

The manner of all bridal fairs

From page C6

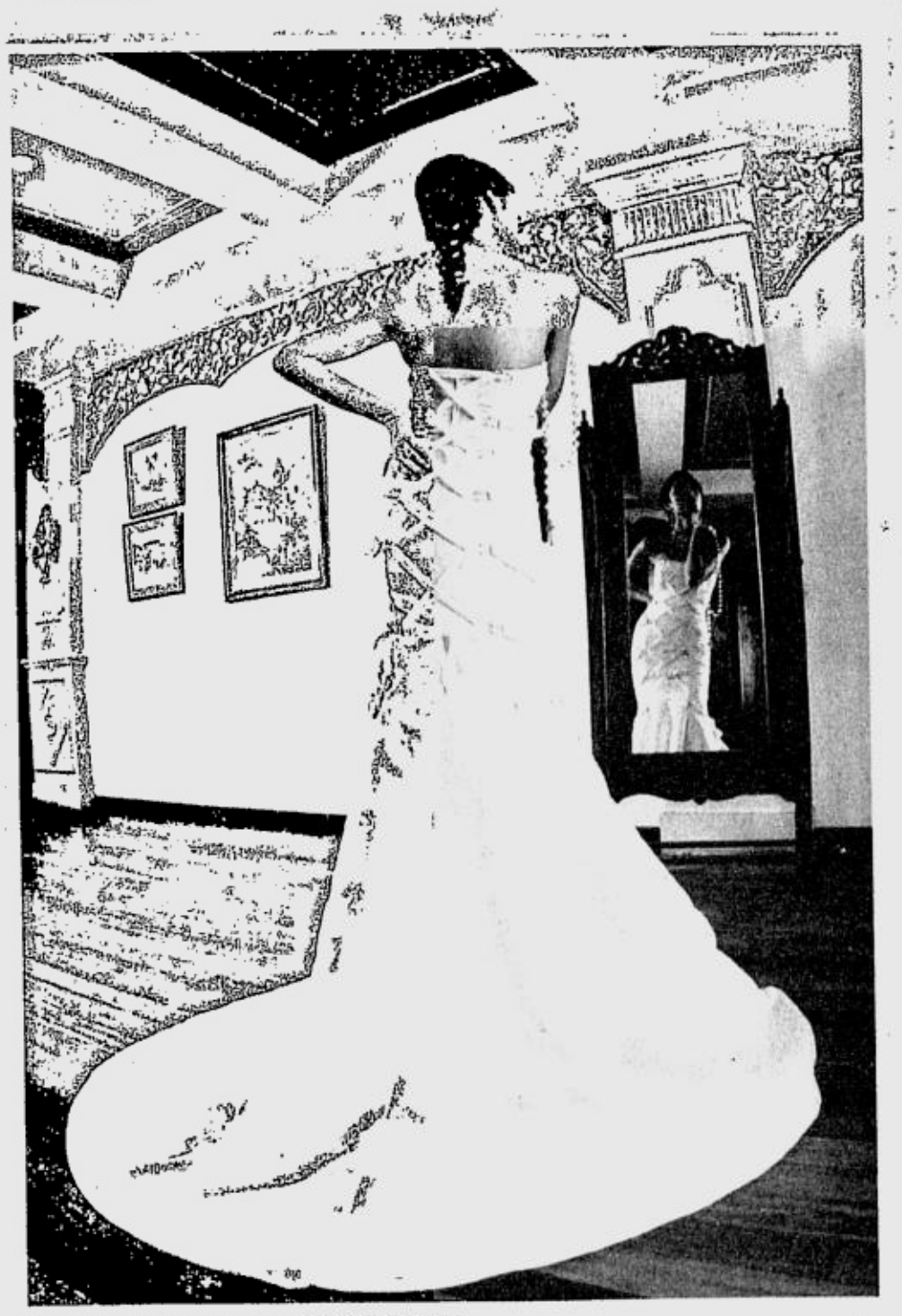


PHOTO: BERN MEJIAS AT ILUSTRADO CAFÉ BALLROOM, INTRAMUROS.
MODEL: GEORGETTE PEÑA

MIKE DE LA ROSA
Two-piece crepe and chiffon fringed and ruffled ensemble

PHOTO: EDWIN TUYAY AT MAKATI SHANGRI-LA
MODEL: JOANN BITAGCOL

PHOTO: BERN MEJIAS AT CASA MANILA, INTRAMUROS. MODEL: FRANCIS RICAFORT

HAIR AND MAKEUP: KUKS REYES AND DAVE ASTILLERO FOR THE INTRAMUROS SHOOT; ROBBIE PINERA FOR SHU UEMURA AND PATRICK ROSAS' TEAM—MARLON SUAREZ, NOEL JIMENEZ, REY ARCIAGA FOR THE MAKATI SHANGRI-LA SHOOT

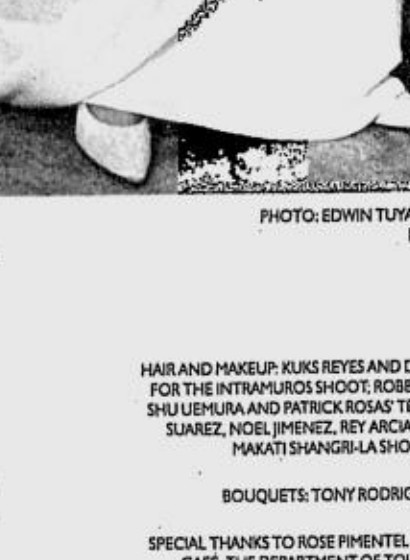
BOUQUETS: TONY RODRIGUEZ

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROSE PIMENTEL OF ILUSTRADO CAFÉ, THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND THE INTRAMUROS ADMINISTRATION; JOY WASSMER AND MAI MISLANG OF THE MAKATI SHANGRI-LA

DESIGNERS' PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

EDWIN TUYAY, BERN MEJIAS, CHITO CLEOFAS AND CHITO VECINA ARE MEMBERS OF THE WEDDING AND PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE PHILIPPINES

FREDERICK PERALTA
Serpentine gown reminiscent of the glamour '50s in Milkado silk with crisscrossing silver straps and hooks



ANTHONY NOCOM
1950s-style shawl-lapel jacket and tuxedo pants with satin-strip accent

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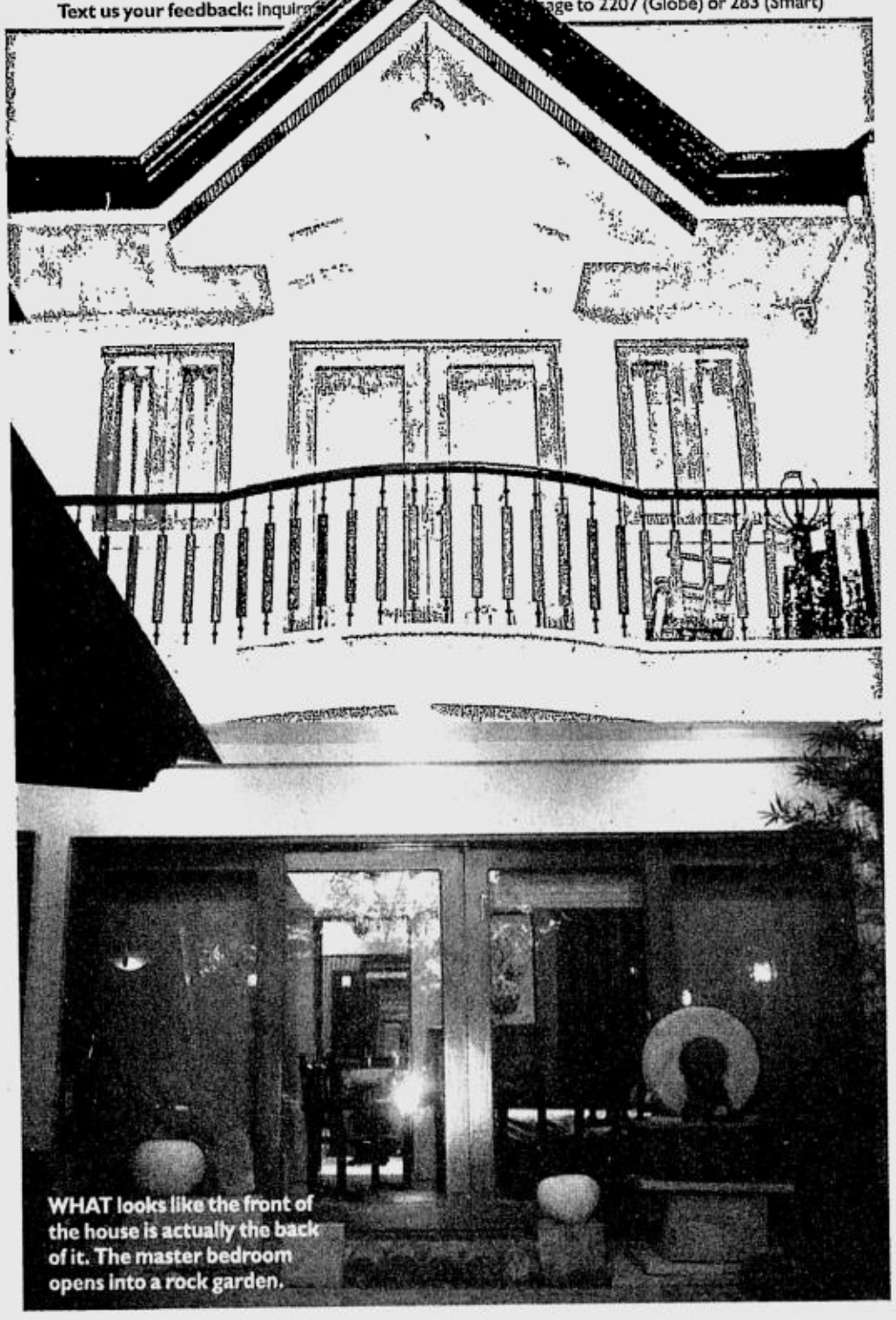


WHAT looks like the front of the house is actually the back of it. The master bedroom opens into a rock garden.

Family home, art haven

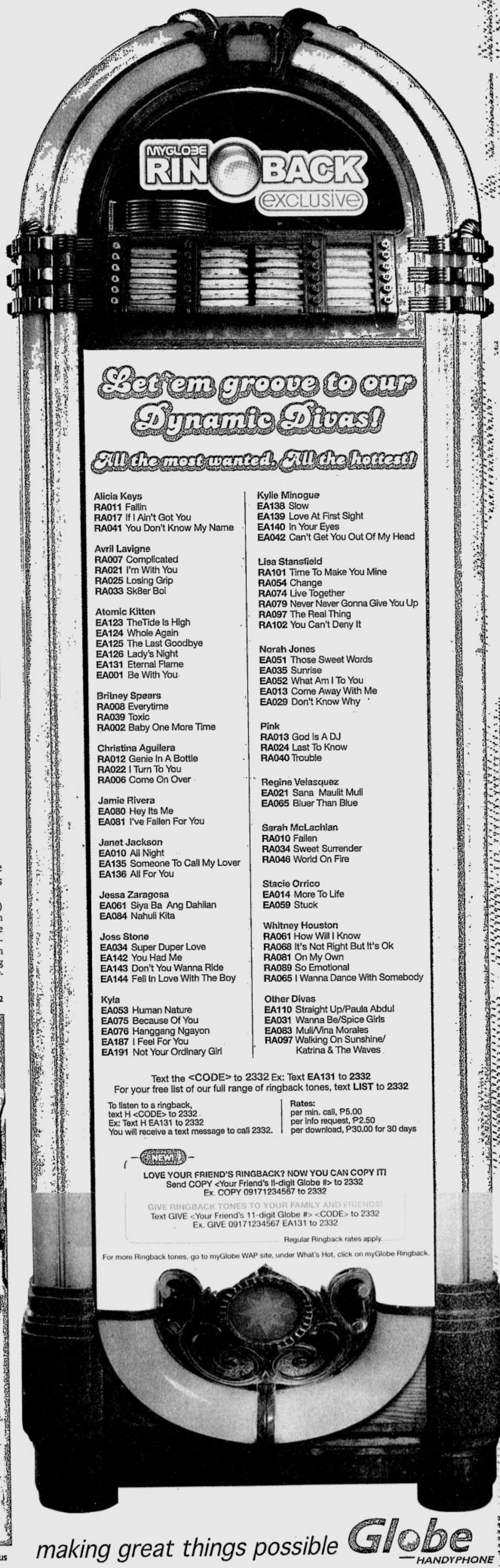
Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

FOR A THING or an event to happen in the physical world, it must first transpire in the mental one. This art dealer and his accountant-wife are no psychics, but they unwittingly went by one of Jaime Licauco's favorite maxims as they waited for years to extend and remodel their house into the dream home they had always wanted.

The couple (name withheld upon request) bought a 150-sq.-m. lot almost a decade ago in a middle-class subdivision in Antipolo. The modest two-story house they built on the property gave the then newlyweds more than enough space until the children started arriving one after the other. The two are now proud parents of three girls and a boy.

FAMILY/ D2

THE CORRIDOR connecting the two houses is a gallery of "Mother and Child" paintings by various artists. Behind the walls are the master bedroom on one side and the kitchen on the other.



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EA131 Eternal Flame
EA001 Be With You

Britney Spears
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RA039 Toxic
RA002 Baby One More Time

Christina Aguilera
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RA006 Come On Over

Jamie Rivera
EA080 Hey Its Me
EA081 I've Fallen For You

Janet Jackson
EA010 All Night
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EA136 All For You

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EA061 Siya Ba Ang Dahilan
EA084 Nahuli Kita

Joss Stone
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RA081 On My Own
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RA065 I Wanna Dance With Somebody

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THE LIVING room as viewed from the attic. Jerome de Jesus of Pulah Home Décor did the Christmas tree.

Family home, art haven

From page D1

"The second floor wasn't of much use since we made it into an attic," says the wife. "Imagine, the living room, dining room, kitchen and three small bedrooms were all competing for limited space on the first floor."

Buying the vacant lot behind their property wasn't an option, as the couple was then struggling to make ends meet. The husband was a banker until he shifted to art dealership after learning the ropes of the business from his big sister. But unlike his sibling, who owns an art gallery and furniture store at SM North Edsa, he runs a roving gallery that brings art works instead to would-be buyers.

"I used to imagine the empty lot as ours," he says with a chuckle. "I even called out from the window to imaginary household members and invited them over for meals every time lunch or dinner was served."

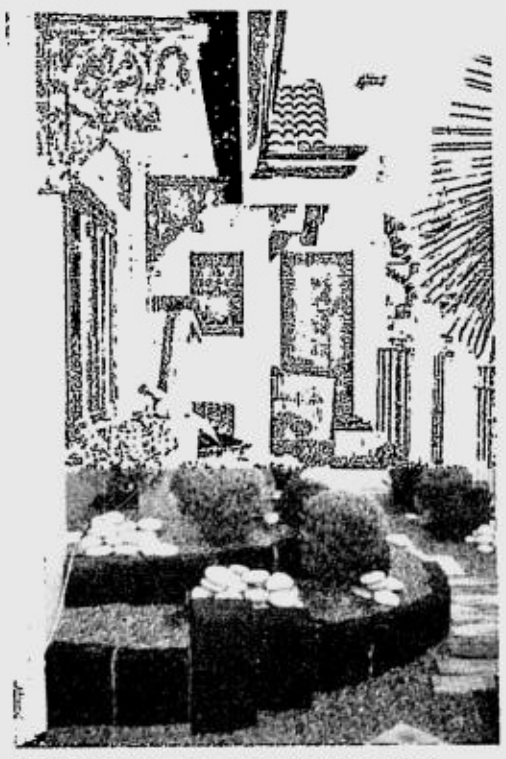
Just in time

They had no idea that the lot could someday be theirs, until some years later when the husband saw an obscure "For Sale" sign as he went for a rare walk around the block. And just in the nick of time, as his US-based parents were then planning to retire in the Philippines. Ever the dutiful son, he took it upon himself to house his folks once they returned home for good.

Fortunately, his art dealership business was already beginning to pick up. Armed with modest savings, he bought the lot and soon had a second two-story concrete structure built on their newly acquired property. The first floor was to house his parents, while the second floor with a separate flight of stairs was to be his future office.

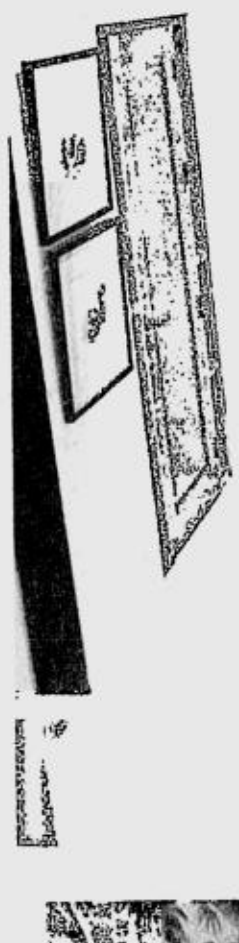
"When my parents finally moved in," he says, "we were in effect running two houses with separate entrances on a single lot straddling one block."

Since everything depended on their finances, it took the couple a few more years to finally join the two houses together. It went beyond merely building a "bridge" to connect both structures, as the older one badly needed a major overhaul.



THE FRONT rock garden features a koi pond. Decorative brackets come from an old house.

This Antipolo couple had to wait years to get their dream house, but their patience has been amply rewarded



THE EIGHT-SEATER square table features a chandelier by Orlina, which contrasts with De Jesus' lush Christmas topiary.

OPPOSITE view of "Mother and Child" gallery. Pin lights brighten up the entire home, causing the family's electricity bill to shoot up.

Work started early this year and was finished just in time before November rolled in. Even when money was tight, the couple, especially the husband, never lost hope as he visualized how the family's future abode would eventually look like.

Since he had already accumulated a number of artworks by renowned artists such as Austria, Moscoso, Cacnio (both father and son), Cusi, Blanco, Castrillo, Orlina, Magsaysay-Ho and Olmedo, he had set his mind on a Filipino-inspired home with Asian touches.

Of course, whatever its outcome was, the newly renovated structure should blend seamlessly with his parents' retirement home.

The husband hired the services of architect Alex Salvador and interior designer Vincent Cantuba. He supplemented existing furniture and accent pieces with stuff from Pulah Home Décor (SM North Edsa).

Interior designer and landscape artist Jerome de Jesus later worked on the Zen-inspired front and back gardens as well as this year's Christmas décor. Since it will be the

THE MASTER bedroom with sliding glass doors leading to the back garden with soothing water fountains

THE VIEWING room is warm, cozy and, yes, full of artworks.

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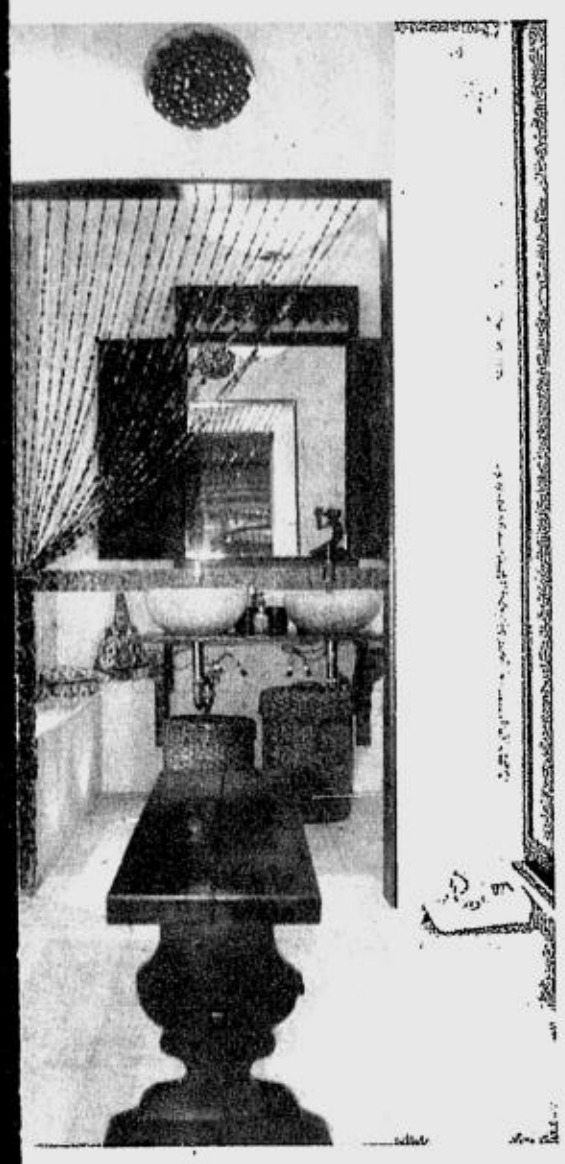

SCULPTED his and hers sink and a huge mirror framed by a window

HIS and hers walk-in closets lead to the main bathroom.

family's first time to celebrate the holiday season together in their newly refurbished home, the couple wanted the tinsel to look special.

"I gave them plenty of creative elbow room to work on the house," he says. "My only requirement was adequate space to display my collection of 'Mother and Child' paintings by various artists."

Pin lights

The artworks have now found an ideal gallery, as they line a long corridor that connects both houses. A series of pin lights illuminate the paintings—to the husband's delight and the wife's dismay. Well, sort of.

"Our current electric bill has increased several-fold," she says good-naturedly. "But the house now looks a lot brighter because of the lights and beige walls."

The wife willingly took a supporting role while the husband dealt with the specifics. Her only wish, which eventually came true, was more room for their growing family.

The couple achieved this by utilizing a substantial part of the attic as the children's bedrooms and study area. They had the ceiling insulated and the bedrooms air-conditioned to make them more conducive.

In lieu of the living room's low ceiling, a high one now exists, as Salvador had the old one torn down. More space in the first floor meant a bigger living room, dining area and kitchen. The couple even has space to spare for an entertainment room and the de rigueur powder room.

"I have to admit that my knowledge about art and interior design is quite limited," says the wife. "Even now I still have problems with the Buddha image in the entertainment room. I feel as if I'm being watched whenever we're there. I really wanted to take it out, but I eventually had to give in to my husband's wishes if only to maintain the peace."

INTRICATE brass sculpture by Cacnio

The wife is also having a hard time finding beauty in Olmedo's almost grotesque images, never mind if the late artist's dark paintings now fetch a fortune. She, however, shares her husband's love for artworks by such artists as Cusi, Cacnio, Orlina and Austria.

"I still have a great deal to go in terms of broadening my appreciation for the arts," she says. "I've learned a lot through my husband."

One area they wholeheartedly agree on is the master bedroom. Located in the first floor, the couple's private quarters, with only drapes and sliding glass doors separating them from the outside world, opens into a rock garden and the soothing sound of several mini-fountains. The front garden also has its own calming water element in the form of a *koi* pond.

"I wanted the master bedroom to be in the first floor," says the husband, "because we intend to grow old together in this house. I can't imagine us climbing a flight of stairs several times a day as we advance in years."

The couple is definitely here to stay.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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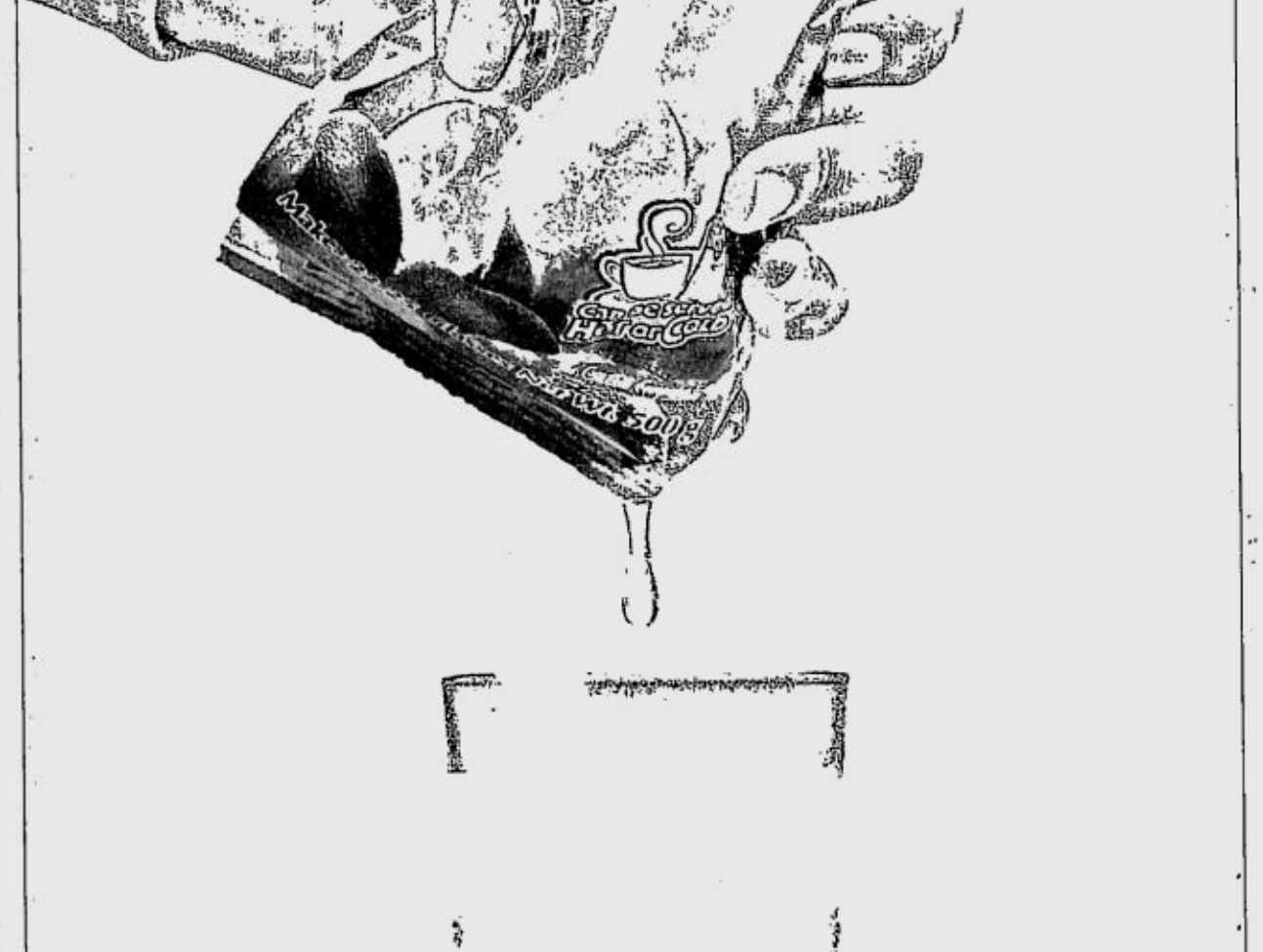

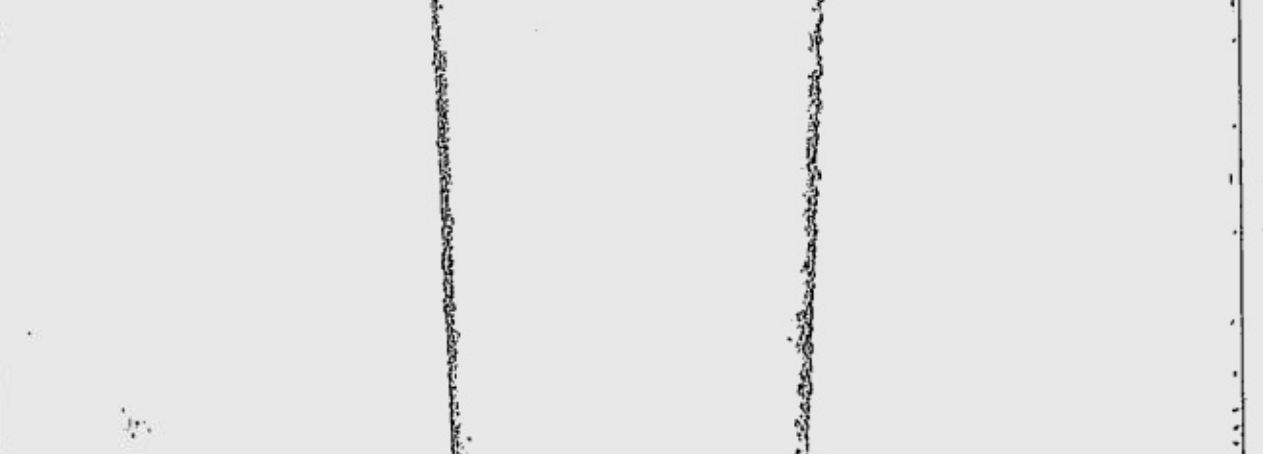

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Know your orchid

By Serapion S. Metilla
Contributor

ORCHID comes from the Greek word *orchis* that means testicles. Generally, it has irregular flowers with pendant sepals looking like testicles.

Plants with these characteristics—three sepals and two petals, with a third at the center that is called lip—belong to the *Orchidaceae* family.

GREEN TIPS

The orchid, known for its exquisite beauty, is still considered the queen of all exotics, forever thrilling the human heart. Descriptions of over 800 genera and other 35,000 species have been compiled. Hybrids created to improve the species are estimated to be over 40,000 now and still growing.

About 85 percent of orchids come from the tropics. Asia is said to be richest in orchids. They include the Bulbophyllum, Cymbidium, Vanda, Dendrobium, Phalaenopsis, Calanthe, Paphiopedilum, Coelogyne and Phaius.

The Cattleya, Miltonia, Oncidium Epidendrum, Odontoglossum, Catasetum, Brassia and some others are from tropical America.

Found in Africa are the Polystachya, Disa, Ansellia and Lisochilus. The continent with the least number of orchid species is Antarctica. In the temperate zones are the Spiranthes, Orchis and Cypripedium.

In the tropics, most orchids are epiphytic, meaning they grow suspended on tree trunks, thus, they are also called air plants. On the other hand, orchids are mainly terrestrial, meaning they grow on the ground, in temperate zones.

Examples of the epiphytic type are the Phalaenopsis, also called butterfly or moth orchid. Some orchids that can be cultured in the ground are the Spathoglottis (commonly called ground orchids), Singapore orchid (Vanda Miss Agnes Joaquim), Vandopsis, and some Cymbidiums.

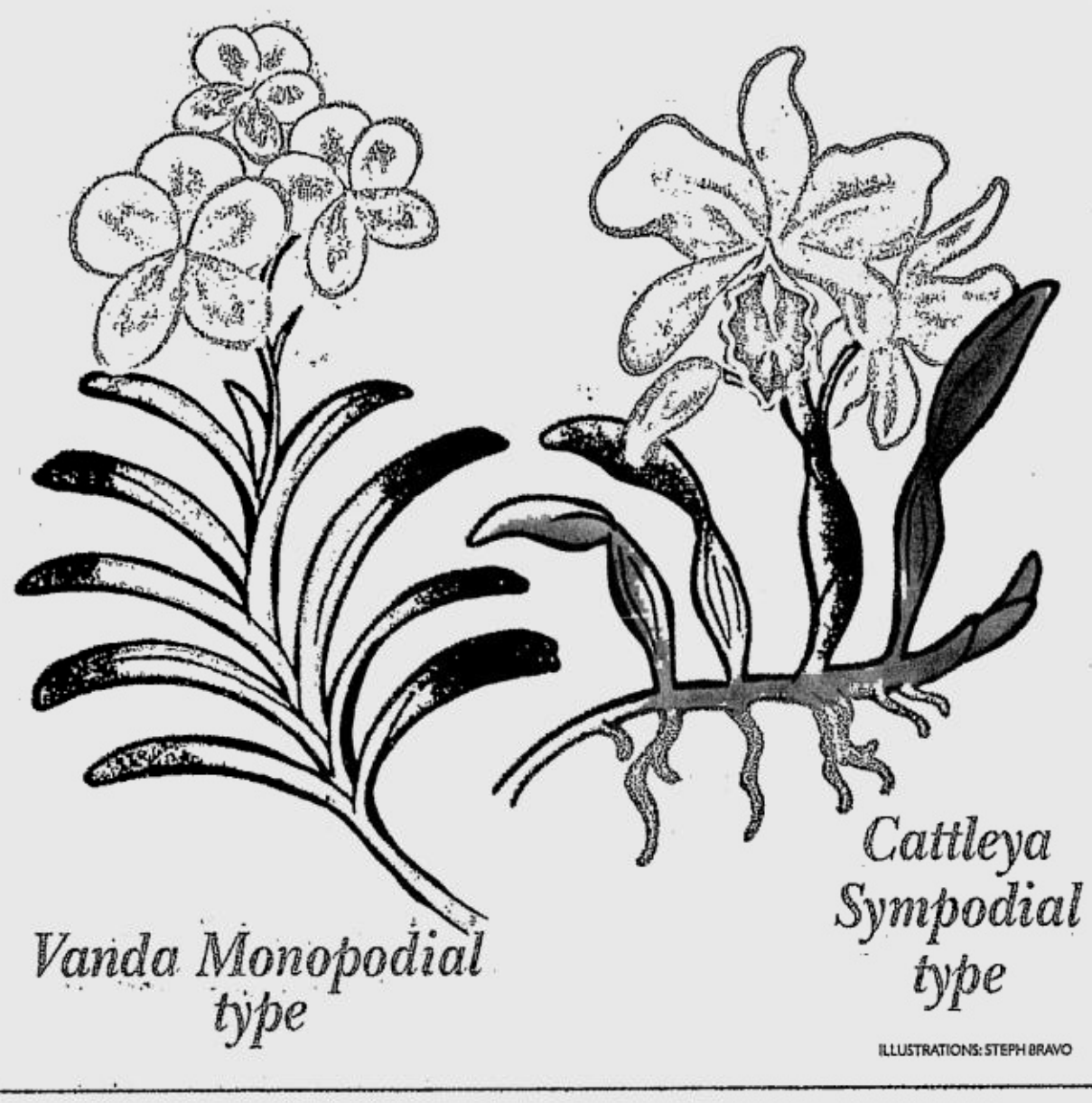
Belonging to the Monocotyledon family, like grasses and palms, orchids are either monopodial or sympodial.

The monopodial, having true stems, have leaves along the side of stems and adventitious roots that can secure the plant in place and get nutrients. The plant keeps growing and can be top-cut for propagation. Examples are the Vandas, Phalaenopsis and Vanilla.

Sympodial types are those without true stems. Examples are the Cattleyas, Dendrobiums, Cymbidiums, Oncidiums, Paphiopedilums and most orchid species.

To learn more about orchids, join the Philippine Orchid Society. Call 9294425.

Contact this writer at 9394593.



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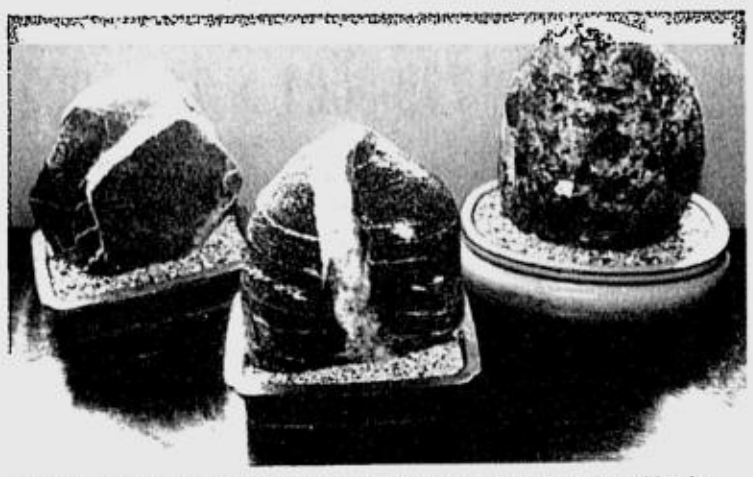
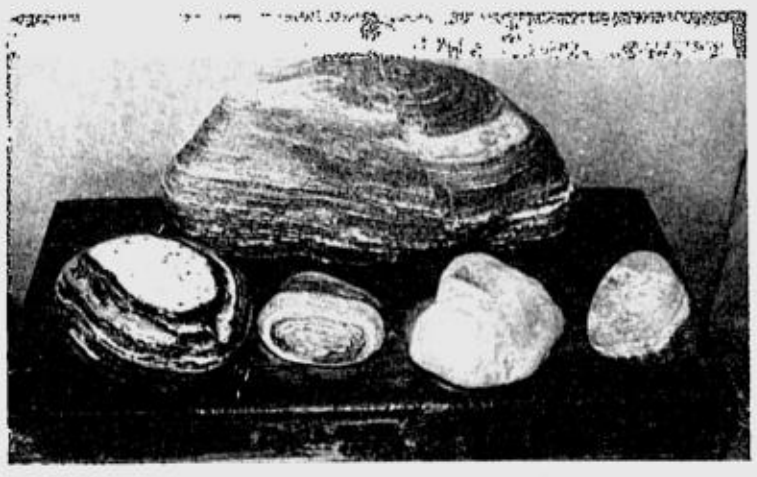
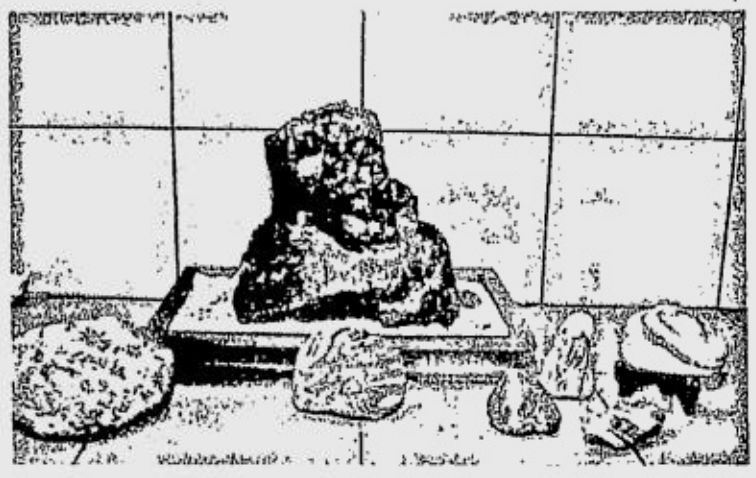


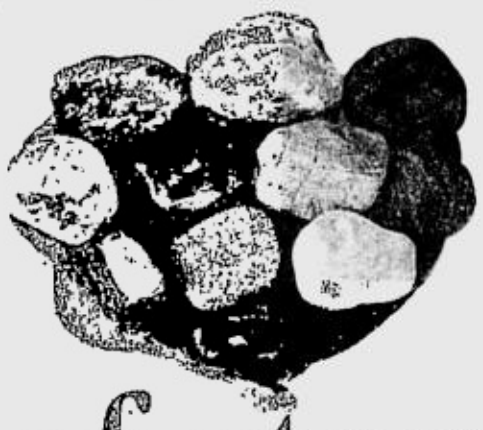
THESE smaller rocks collected from the North are displayed in the Suiseki corner while the bigger garden rocks deck various spots in the garden.



THESE rocks decked a rain-soaked bonsai garden before photographer Betoy Johnson brought them indoors for the photo shoot.



MORE of these rocks with fascinating forms and colors are used as accents in the landscape.



NATURE'S artwork is visible on the surface of these weathered stones.

Garden of stones—and rocks

TOO beautiful to mix with garden plants, this piece of nature's artwork is better left alone in the center of a table.

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Betoy Johnson

OUT there in Talavera, Nueva Ecija, young landscaper Lorenz Inos is restyling local gardens to make use of the beautiful stones and rocks that abound in those parts. "Stonescape" is the artistic arrangement of stones and rocks in the garden.

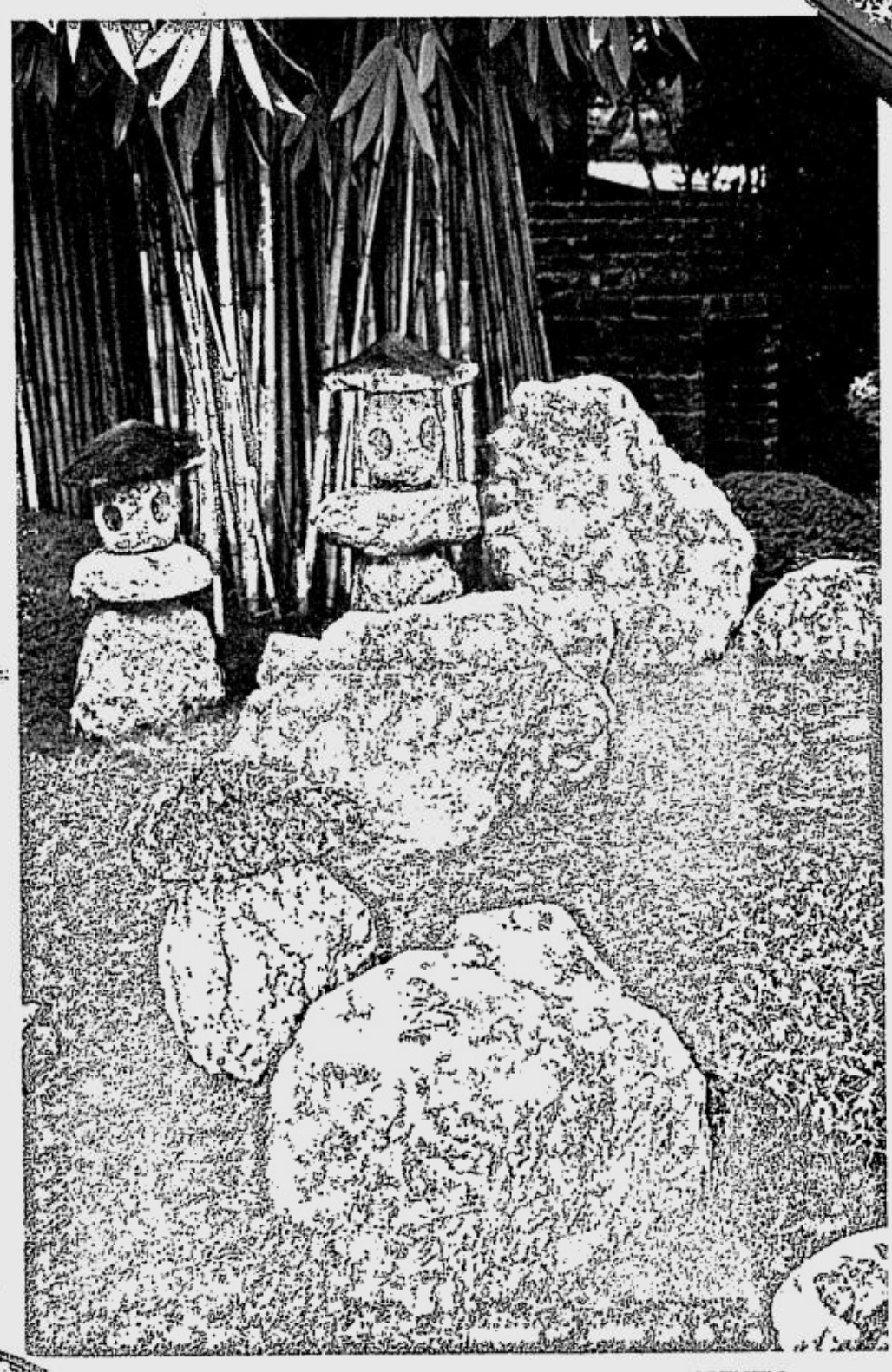
Inos has transformed his garden's mountainscape design into a showcase of stones and rocks.

Although he has had several landscaping projects—a retiree's cactus and succulent retreat, a rancher's farm garden and an expatriate's waterfall Eden, none accentuated the beauty of natural stones the way he has arranged them in his restyled garden, and lately in the garden of client Percy Reeby's vacation home.

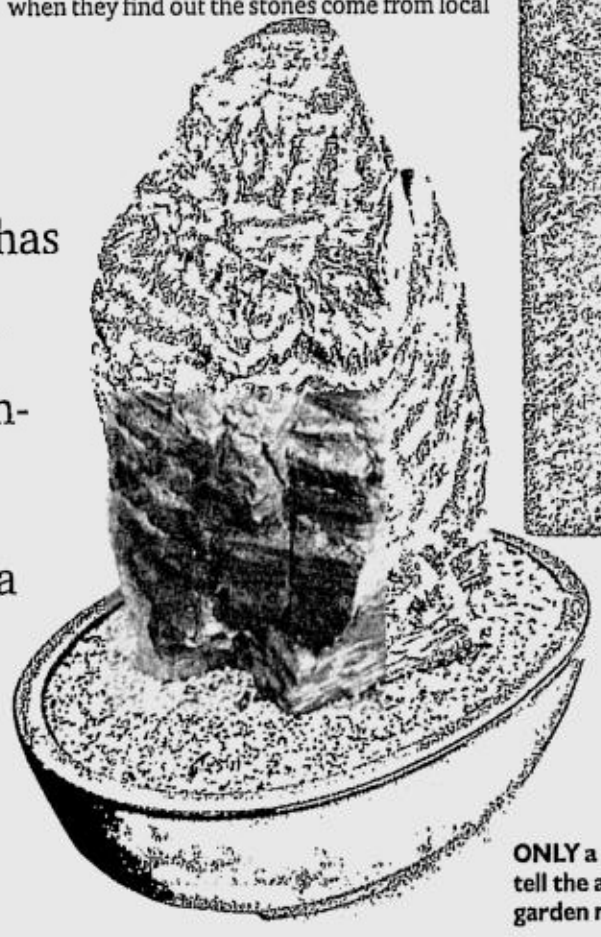
THIS chunk of layered rock is from a bigger piece that decks the lawn.

Members of the Natural Stones Society of the Philippines will turn green with envy when they see the tremendous assortment of "living" (our own term for the stones that come alive with color and sheen when soaked in water) stones in Inos' garden and showroom.

Won't they eat their hearts out all the more when they find out the stones come from local sources?



Landscaper Lorenz Inos has transformed his mountain-inspired garden into a 'stonescape'



ONLY a geologist can tell the age of this garden monolith.

"Weathered stones are everywhere, just waiting to be picked up and admired. I found my pieces, for instance, on dried up streambeds, along the rivers, at the foot of the mountain, abandoned quarry sites, and out there in the fields," Inos said. As in the past, he hiked to the mountains to get new ideas for his landscaping projects.

The array of natural stones and rocks that greeted us in the garden of Inos was a relaxing sight for our tired eyes and aching limbs, battered as we were by the four-hour trip from Makati to Talavera.

The stones' uses in the garden were as varied as their forms, textures, sizes and colors. Under the bonsai trees, for example, were oriental lanterns carved out of Mt. Pinatubo rocks. They added touches of oriental charm to the dwarfed *callos* and *balete* trees.

We tried walking barefoot on slabs of rocks that were half-buried in the blue grass lawn. This may sound strange but we felt warmth seeping through the soles of our feet, a soothing balm indeed to our much abused limbs.

"Don't be surprised, the earth stones absorb the heat of the sun," Inos explained. We also noted a set of stepping stones called *piedra ilocos*.

Also at various spots were river pebbles called *siete colores* and kudo. They were fascinating accents to the otherwise monochromatic pattern of ornamental plants in pocket gardens. We also found them at the edge of ponds, at the bottom of waterfalls, along the fence and walls and, surprisingly, on a candy dish at the center of a coffee table at the verandah.

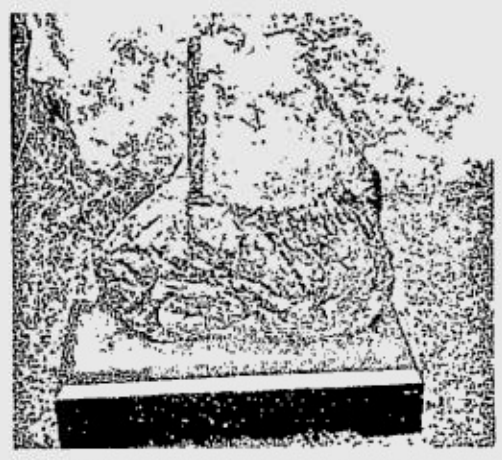
"Rubbing these pebbles is relaxing and makes you forget your cares and anxiety," Inos said as he handed us a rounded pebble with earth colors and markings of a batik cloth. "Spa therapists heat pebbles in aromatic oil and rub them on the skin of patients for a toning effect also," he added.

As we inspected the other pebbles in the candy dish, we discovered that each piece was a work of art, no two designs were alike. "Nature forces have created their interesting forms, colors and textures in the course of many, many years," Inos explained.

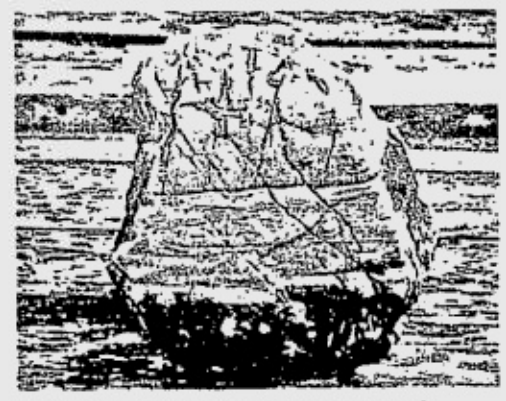
He pointed out there really was no substitute for natural stones and rocks in a garden landscape. "There is no satisfaction better than searching for them in the field, bringing them home, cleaning them up and finding a place for them in the garden," he added.

For those who don't have the luxury of time or patience for field hunting, he advised, "selections of natural stones and rocks can be found at landscaping supply stores and at gravel and sand yards."

To visit Lorenz Inos' stonescaped garden and natural stone collection, text him at 0918-5103412 or e-mail renzinos@digitelone.com

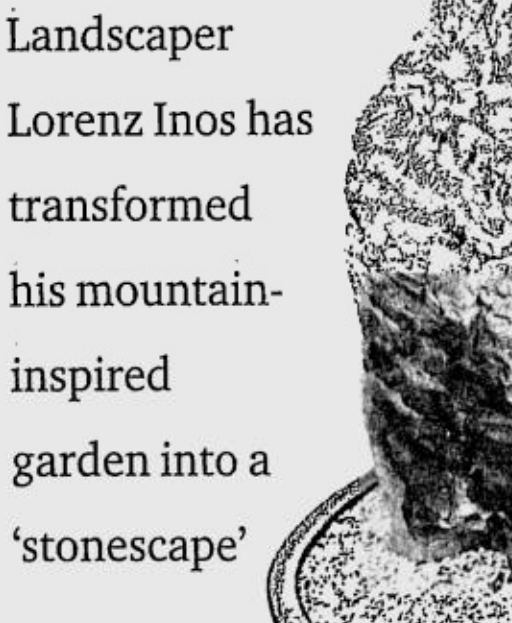


PIECE of rock tells story of its weather-beaten past.



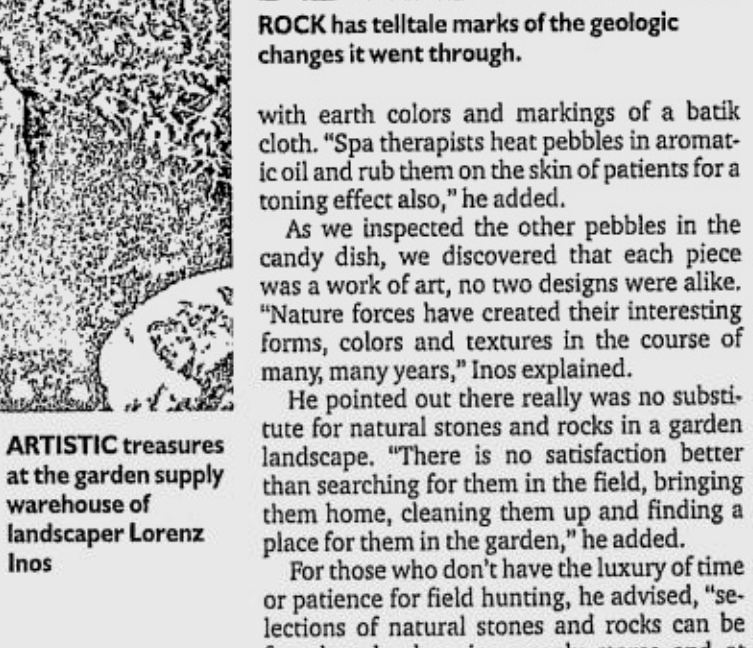
ROCK has telltale marks of the geologic changes it went through.

ARTISTIC treasures at the garden supply warehouse of landscaper Lorenz Inos



GRAY and white rocks in wooden cart steals the scene from a root-clad old rock in the garden.

WEATHERED by forces of nature, these rocks developed white marbling design.



LANDSCAPER Lorenz Inos and client Precy Reeby in the latter's stonescaped garden

Warmer oceans are shrinking glaciers

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

GREENPEACE, a worldwide environmental advocacy organization, sent us recently a paper on climate change.

As we all know, climate change is closely linked to global warming and, in fact, the two are often used interchangeably. We hear and read about climate change often but may not fully grasp its implications because they are multifaceted.

Greenpeace's studies show that the most dramatic evidence of climate change at present can be observed in snowy regions with glaciers and ice sheets whose ecosystems are being affected by temperature changes.

"Glaciers around the world," Greenpeace reports, "are already shrinking, threatening wildlife and water supplies (as) warmer ocean temperatures transport large amounts of heat to coastal Antarctica."

Such changes in temperature result in an imbalance that can only disrupt the climatic system.

Greenpeace's concern is bolstered by an ACIA (Arctic Climate Impact Assessment) report that "global warming is heating the Arctic almost twice as fast as the rest of the planet in a thaw that threatens livelihoods of millions of people, and could wipe out polar bears by 2100." The ACIA survey, incidentally, was funded by countries immediately concerned—United States, Canada, Russia, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

(Another news report, this time from Friends of the Earth, adds the Himalayan region and Mount Everest to the sites endangered by climate change.)

Melting glaciers

In this connection, a passage from Antonio S. Oposa Jr.'s book, "The Laws of Nature and Other Stories," may explain the matter further: "A great amount of the world's fresh water supply comes in the form of ice from glaciers. Scientific findings reveal that these glaciers are melting fast and the cause is the increase of Earth's temperature. In turn, this melted ice can cause either massive floods or droughts. Part of this unpleasant picture are the storms and typhoons that seem to occur more frequently."

To understand the causes of climate change and global warming, one has only to revert to studies on air pollution, about which much has been said and done (though still not enough), and the effects of carbon dioxide emissions on the air we breathe. Greenpeace, however, must now stress their alarming effects on our lives.

One such impact is "extreme weather" which has a wide range of effects—economic (ex. insurance costs), social (ex. loss of life) and environmental (ex. loss of habitats), thus requiring more extensive study since they are occurring more frequently.

One clear indication of extreme weather is the rise of sea levels. And this has led some scientists to come up with findings with apocalyptic undertones. Losses cited are not just polar bears but entire countries that could be swallowed up by rising waters.

In warmer regions, one evidence of global warming is coral bleaching. Coral reefs in tropical waters are affected by changes in ocean temperatures. Since coral reefs are habitats to a wide variety of marine species, think of what such loss would mean to all those creatures.

Those depending on the reefs are not just fish and aquatic life but humans who make a living out of them as well. There will be need, therefore, to focus on the Pacific, especially the Great Barrier Reef, and waterways around it.

Individual effort

Greenpeace and other concerned agencies are not making the reports to scare people, although if anything goes wrong with our ecosystems, we have reason to fear. But no, this is not the aim of our environmentalists; rather it is to seek solutions to restore the balance in our climatic system.

What can be done? While the impacts have global effects, each region or country is encouraged to do its individual part to reduce the causes of climate change/global warming.

For the student or neophyte environmentalist, there is literature available with information on how to eliminate, or at least reduce, those causes. It is a simple matter of requesting information from such agencies as Greenpeace (e-mail athenar@dialb.greenpeace.org or gduran@ph.greenpeace.org) or Linis Ganda, which suggests planting of trees as a way to offset global warming (c/o Narda Camacho, tel. 4100383/4487835 or Cocap c/o Ester Perez de Tagle, tel. 9266655).

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com.

The most dramatic evidence of climate change can be observed in snowy regions

Store offers feng shui accessories, charms

A ONE-STOP feng shui boutique has opened at the Ortigas business district.

The World of Feng Shui's (WOFS) flagship boutique in the Philippines is on the ground floor of The Podium.

WOFS carries a wide collection of feng shui lucks, charms, cures and enhancers, as well as auspicious art and gift items. A corner is dedicated exclusively to the latest books of Lillian Too, WOFS founder.

The ceremonies started with the blessing by Rev. Venancio Silva, OSJ. Authentic crystal singing bowls and seven metal bells from Malaysia were used for the space clearing ceremony to create plenty of fresh energy inside the boutique.

Former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz, an avid feng shui practitioner, cut the ceremonial ribbon with WOFS Phils. Inc. president and chief executive officer Marites Allen. Nick Allen, WOFS Phils. Inc. chair, unveiled the floor compass.

The Allens tied charms to the door and vigorously rang WOFS' singing bells before the guests entered. Among those present were SM vice president for leasing Daisy Tan Chua, Ng Chin Fei of SM Keppel Land Inc., National Bookstore founder and president Socorro Ramos, Ric Ondrick from the Asian Development Bank, Steven Tan, Allan Brosas and Michael Chan of The Podium, Rotary Club of Pasong Tamo president Al Perez, CCJS Law Office partners Elpidio Jamora Jr. and Benjie Somera Jr., friends from the American Women's Council of the Philippines, British Women's Council of the Philippines and In Touch Foundation.

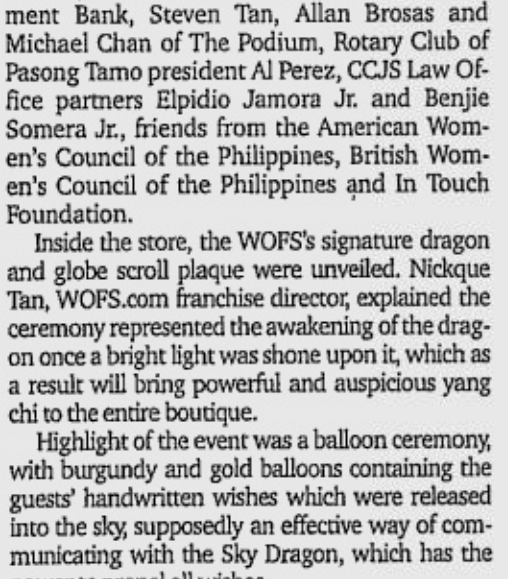
Inside the store, the WOFS's signature dragon and globe scroll plaque were unveiled. Nickque Tan, WOFS.com franchise director, explained the ceremony represented the awakening of the dragon once a bright light was shone upon it, which as a result will bring powerful and auspicious yang chi to the entire boutique.

Highlight of the event was a balloon ceremony, with burgundy and gold balloons containing the guests' handwritten wishes which were released into the sky, supposedly an effective way of communicating with the Sky Dragon, which has the power to propel all wishes.

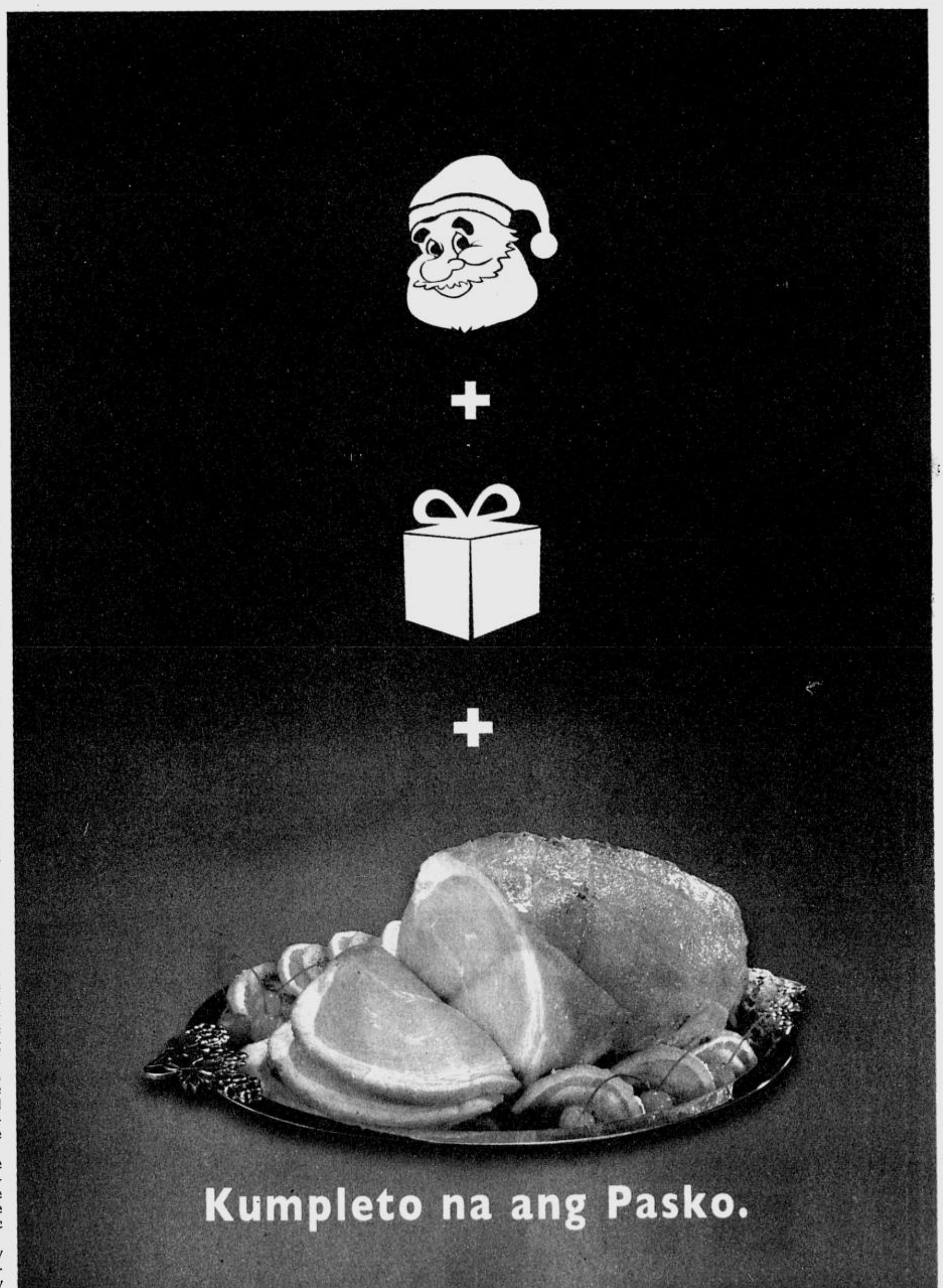
Check out the stylish Zodiac animal jade charms at the World of Feng Shui, the newest attraction in The Podium that are believed to ensure good support and luck. Also, earn how to make 2005 a rewarding year with the 2005 Almanac and the Horoscope Book.

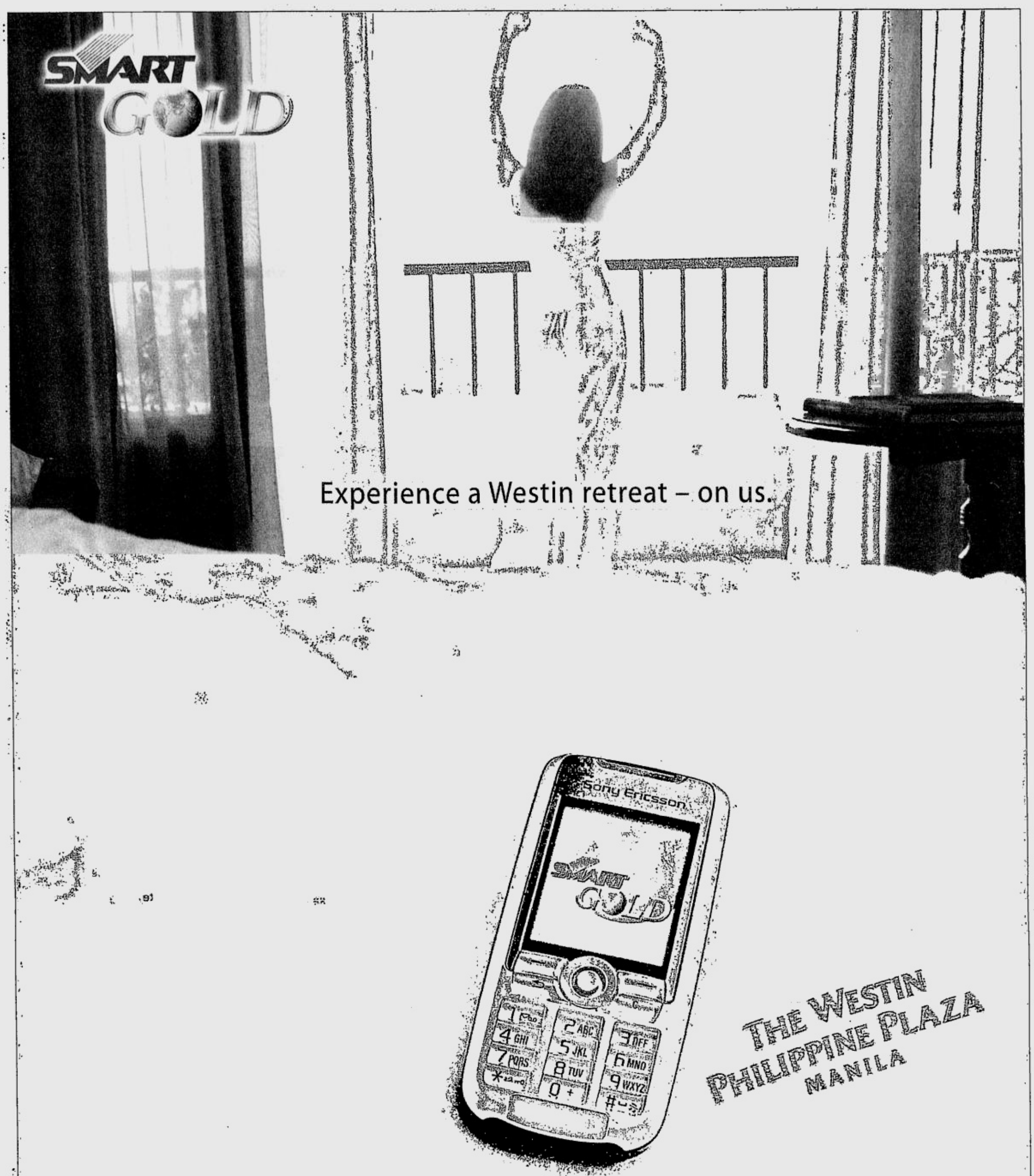
WOFS is open daily 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday to Sunday. The store also offers feng shui consultation by appointment.

WOFS Philippines is the 20th WOFS.com franchisee, which now has 30 outlets in 11 countries.



THE WOFS boutique façade embellished with burgundy and gold trimmings





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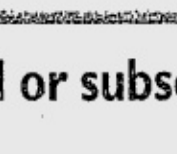
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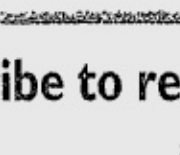
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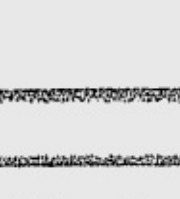

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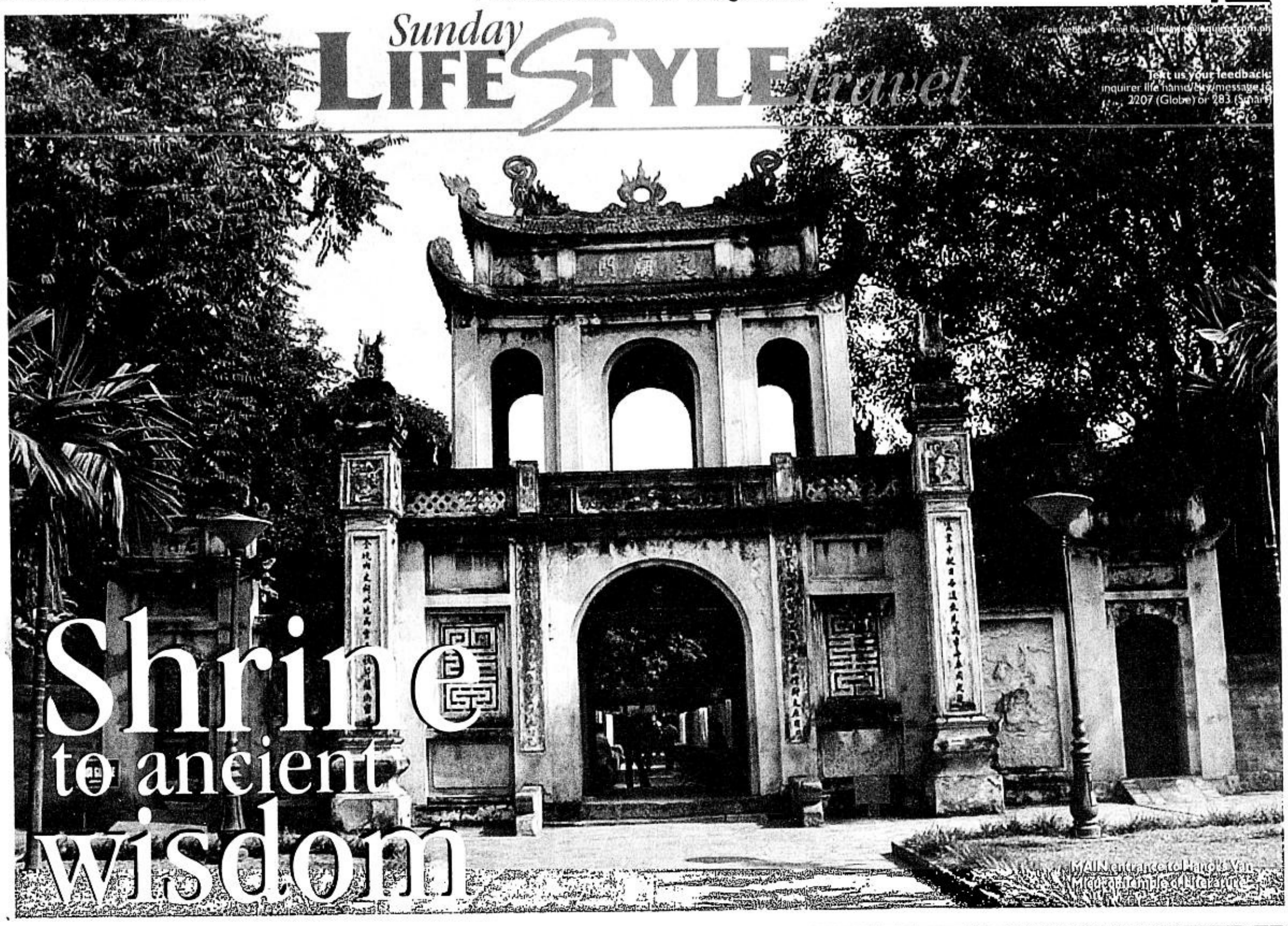

MAIN entrance to Hanoi's Van Mieu-Quoc Tu Giam literature

Shrine to ancient wisdom

Text and photos by Gibbs Cadiz

WHEN we think of the oldest university in Asia, older even than Harvard in the United States, the distinction automatically goes to the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, founded in 1611 by the third Archbishop of Manila, the Dominican Msgr. Miguel de Benavides.

UST was a Western-style ecclesiastical school, built along the lines of the mighty European seats of learning that began with the establishment of the University of Bologna in 1088 A.D.

The "Western-style" qualifier is an important distinction, because in Asia, a far older university rooted in Confucian history and tradition was already functioning by 1076 A.D. This was the Van Mieu-Quoc Tu Giam (The Temple of Literature-School for the Sons of the Nation) in the ancient city of Hanoi, Vietnam.

Today, the Temple of Literature still stands, a well-preserved oasis of serenity and contemplation in a busy part of the country's modern-day capital.

And while it has ceased being a university, it still draws many scholars, thinkers and artists who seek wisdom and kinship in its monuments that celebrate nearly a thousand years of the

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THE WALKWAY at the center of the Great Middle Courtyard, with lanterns along the side that are lit at night

Shrine to ancient wisdom

Hanoi's historic Temple of Literature memorializes nearly a thousand years of a people's quest for learning and advancement

From page F1

quest for higher education among the early Vietnamese.

Royal school

The temple itself was established in 1070 A.D. as a shrine to Confucius. Six years later, the reigning monarch, Ly Nhan Tong, opened the country's first university inside the temple grounds. Members of the royal family made up the first students, followed by the sons of the aristocracy.

Eventually, the school was opened to commoners who passed regional examinations, allowing for the possibility of social mobility through scholastic merit.

The students, from 15 years old and above, studied literature and ethics, derived from the Confucian canon, principally the four classical texts (the Great Study, the Golden Mean, The Analects: Conversations between Confucius and his Disciples, and the works of Mencius) and the five pre-Confucian classics (the Odes, the Annals, the Book of Change, Rites and Ceremonies, and the Spring and Autumn Annals).

Meeting four times a month (two for those in advanced classes), the students were taught how to write poetry and produce commentaries on the sacred texts, which were marked "excellent" or "good" by the teachers.

Education in this university prepared students for the royal examinations, an event of great import in the social and cultural life of the country. Those who passed the exams earned doctorates that could give them a berth as a mandarin scholar—an adviser in the royal court—or as an official of high standing in the provinces.

Those who didn't pass were still accorded respect as men of higher education, members of the country's learned class who often went back to their towns to become educators and school masters themselves.

Four stages

Vietnamese art today still immortalizes these long-ago royal examinations, when young men from the provinces headed for the capital with their sleeping mats, brushes and ink-stones to sit for the grueling four-tiered exams.

Those who passed all four stages were given the title of doctor laureate *(tien si)* and invited to the palace for an audience and banquet with the king. They were then sent home with great fanfare to their villages, where they were received with much pride.

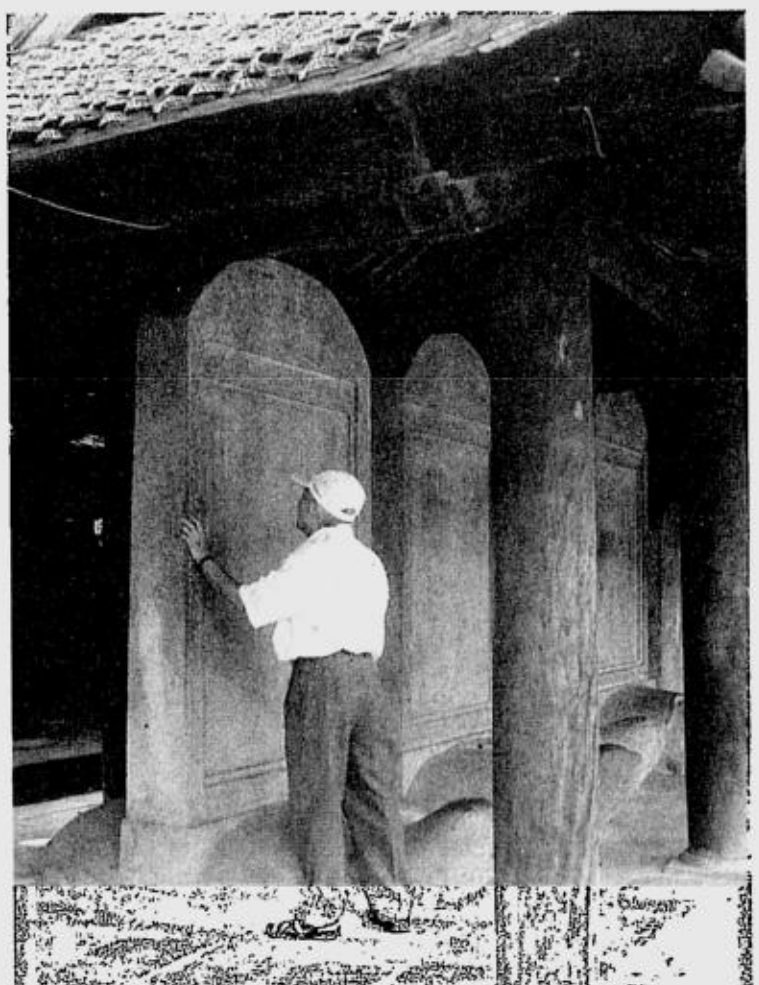
In a given year, some 450 to 6,000 candidates would vie for the doctorates. The last royal examinations were given in 1779, and by that time, 2,313 examinees had been awarded laureates.

Around 1,300 of these names (and the villages where they came from) are recorded in 82 surviving stone slabs called stelae in a garden of the present-day temple.

The Garden of the Stelae is found in the third courtyard of the Temple of Literature. At its center is a square pond called the Well of Heavenly Clarity. Arrayed around this pond are pavilions that shelter the stelae from the elements.

The pavilions themselves, while hewing close to the complex's ancient architecture, are restored versions of the original structures that had withered away with the centuries or were damaged by war.

These stelae and the entire temple area have been designated as among Vietnam's most important historic and cultural treasures. Yet ordinary visitors are still allowed to go up to the stelae, touch the slabs and read the inscriptions on them, to learn from the preserved wisdom of the country's forebears.



ANCIENT wisdom is preserved in these stelae, among Vietnam's most important historic and cultural treasures.

Stylized spaces

All five temple courtyards (Entrance to the Way, the Great Middle Courtyard, Garden of the Stelae, Courtyard of the Sages, and the school grounds in the fifth courtyard) are stylized spaces with pavilions, gardens, ponds, doors and walkways reflecting Confucianism's ideal number and its dedication to the pursuit of yin-yang—balance and harmony in the universe—as expressed through indigenous Vietnamese art and design.

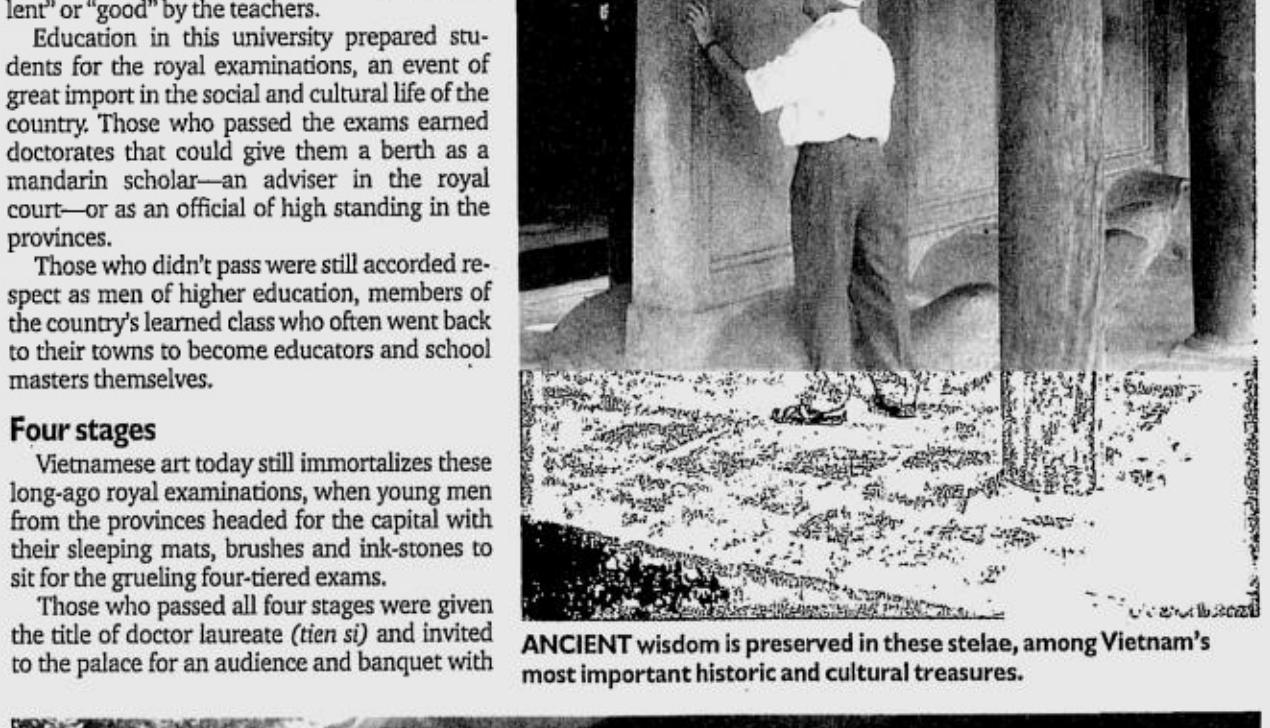
Each gate or doorway in the temple symbolized entry to a higher plane of knowledge and consciousness, until one came to the inner sanctum of the temple, where an elaborate dragon-red altar to Confucius stood.

The altar, still extant today, is the heart of the temple, and it is reached by passing through the lantern-decorated Courtyard of the Sages, where the king and the new doctor laureates would gather before paying their respects to images of the great teacher and his disciples.

Vietnam has done away with its monarchy and the royal examinations, but the courtyard is still used for ceremonial dances during the Tet (lunar new year) holidays, and even for live chess games.

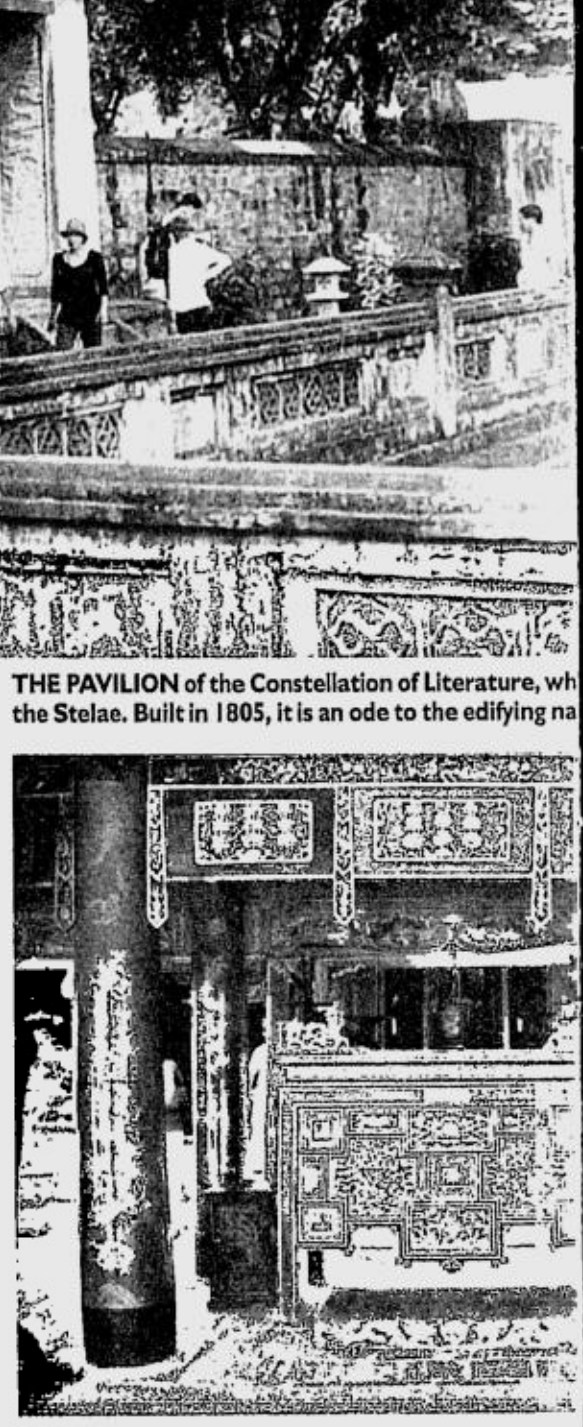
Looming over the entrance to the third courtyard is perhaps the temple's most striking piece of architecture, the two-story Khue Van Cac, or Pavilion of the Constellation of Literature.

Its base has four brick pillars engraved with cloud designs that support a second floor made



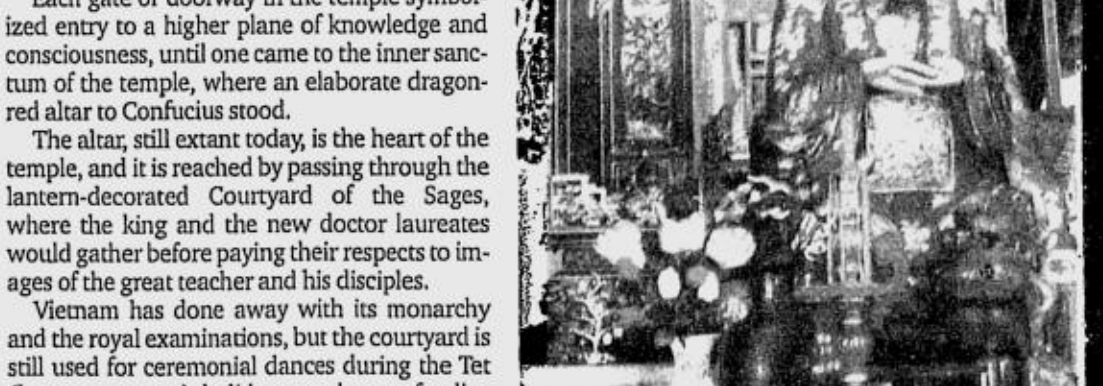
SOME 82 surviving stelae record the names and villages of around 1,300 students from 1076-1779 AD who passed the four-tiered royal examinations to earn for themselves the title of *tien si*, or doctor laureate.

THE PAVILION of the Constellation of Literature, wh the Stelae. Built in 1805, it is an ode to the edifying na



THE ALTAR to Confucius

CONFUCIUS, whose teachings formed the core of th university's curriculum



THE COURTYARD of the Sages, which leads to the heart of the temple where an altar to Confucius ar his disciples still stands.

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VAN Mieu's grounds are an oasis of serenity and contemplation in a busy part of modern-day Hanoi.

ich leads to the Garden of
ture of human learning.

of wooden frames. The round open windows on this floor are adorned with sun-like rays and face all four directions—like a jewel radiating light or a vessel open to the four winds.

Built in 1805 under the Nguyen Dynasty, it is an ode—like the rest of timeless Van Mieu—to the all-encompassing, illuminating value of knowledge and literature in human affairs.

Philippine Airlines offers "Swingaround" tour packages to Hanoi via Ho Chi Minh City. Call 8557777, visit the nearest PAL ticket office or your travel agent, or log on to www.philippineairlines.com

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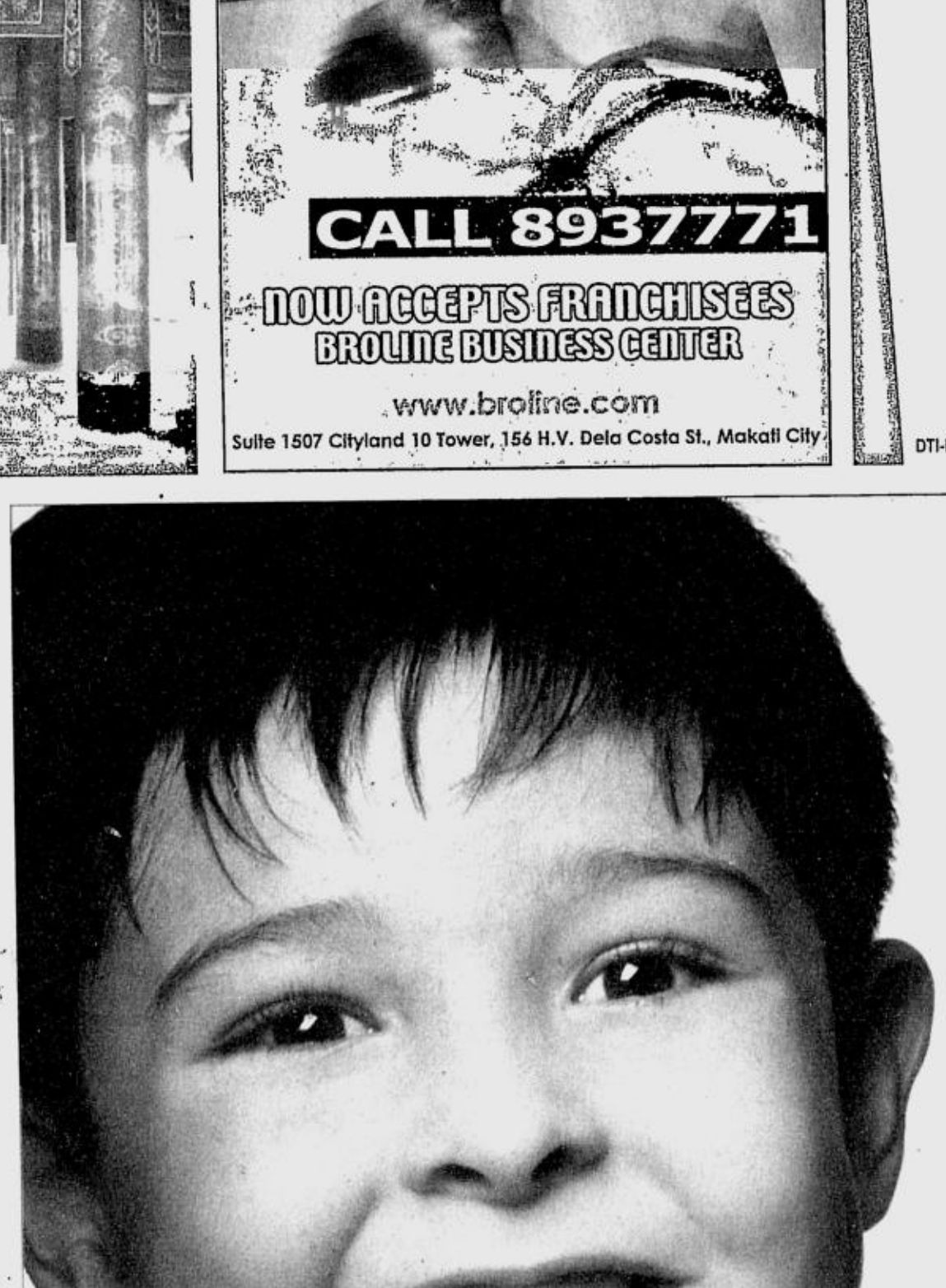

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Sun-kissed in Toscana and Umbria

It sure was great, even for just a while, to experience life under the Tuscan and Umbrian sun

SIDE street in Spoleto lined with hydrangeas and lavender

Text and Photos by Paul Henson
Contributor

ARTISTS, writers and poets have extolled the beauty of Toscana, but perhaps it is author Frances Mayes, who wrote "Under the Tuscan Sun," and the commercialized movie version starring Diane Lane, that made Toscana accessible to everyone. Suddenly, it has become a fantasy to visit the place.

When Mayes got divorced, she packed her bags and bought a farmhouse in Toscana. I'm neither a divorcee nor with enough funds to buy my own farmhouse, but these didn't stop me from doing the next best thing—rent a farmhouse and experience an authentic, sun-kissed Tuscan rural life.

A few kilometers from the heart of Firenze, or Florence, is the small town of Impruneta in the wine-producing Chianti area. Here you will find the Ipini Azienda Agricola, which opens its doors to wayward souls looking for some nature, culture and hospitality.

A huge vintage wooden barrel shows the way to Ipini's butter yellow farmhouse. The sign proudly announces the farm's treasures—*vino, olio e miele* (wine, oil and honey).

The owner, Signora Laura Corzani, warmly welcomes visitors. You can check in at any of Ipini's rooms (each named after a flower; ours was Margherita) with double beds, bathroom and a private terraza with a splendid view of the Tuscan landscape—stretches of vineyards, olive orchards, lemon trees, wild flowers, with a solitary house in the distance, the only sign that another soul exists here other than you.

For big families, there are apartment-type accommodations with wooden furnishings, two double bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, fireplace and terra cotta floors.

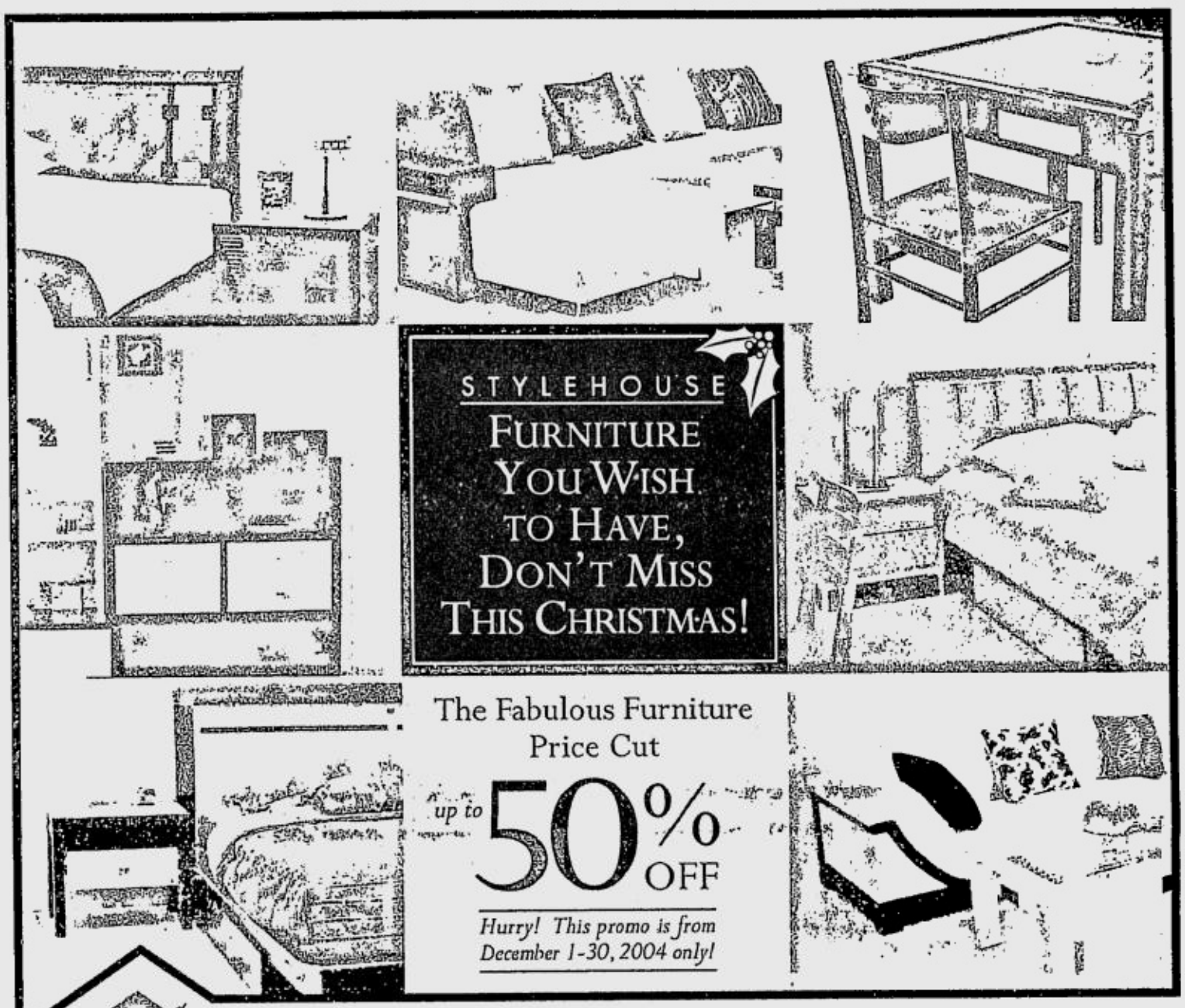
Hearty breakfast

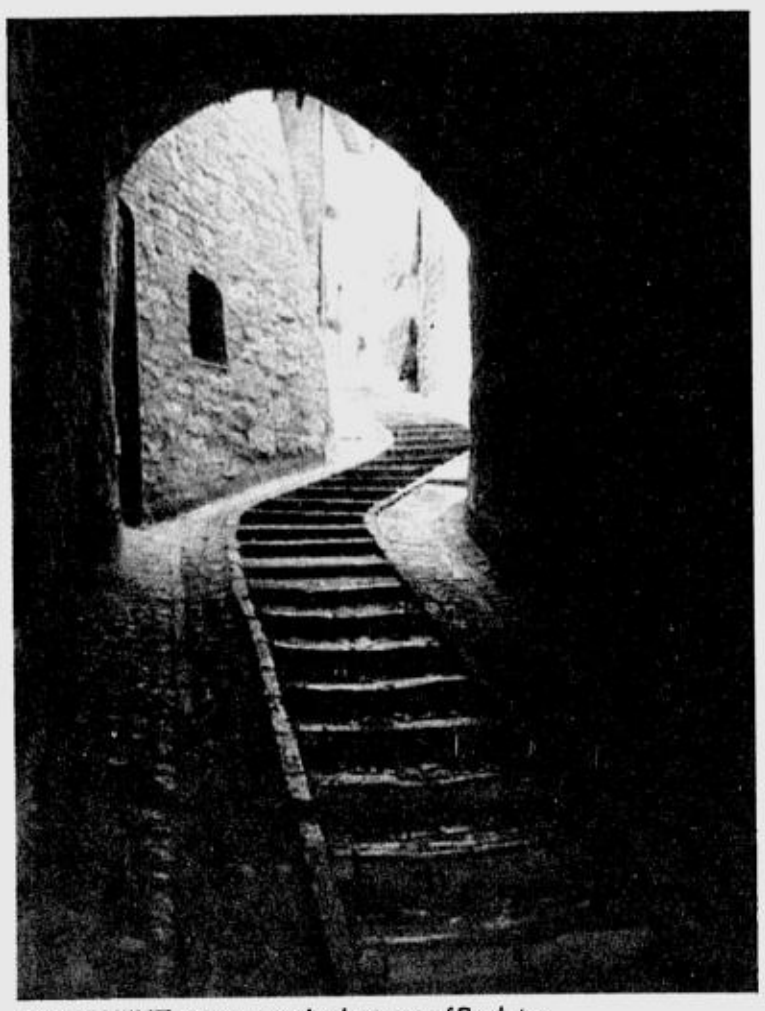
Before I could sink into the laid-back rural life, Laura ushered us to the common dining area where she had prepared a hearty breakfast—a selection of cured meats like *prosciutto crudo* and salami, *formaggio*, country-style brown bread, jams and hazelnut spread, *torta di melle* (apple cake), fresh peaches and apricots, all downed with cappuccino and freshly squeezed *zuccho arancia* (orange juice).

That's a lot of energy to burn, which we did by touring the other areas of the farm, all twenty hectares of it. The amazing thing is, Laura runs it with the help of only her father and an assistant!

Laura brought us to the cantina where they store their *vino tavolo rosso e bianco* (red and white

SUN-KISSED/ G2





AN ANCIENT passageway in the town of Spoleto

THE WARM butter-yellow facade of Ipini's main house

Sun-kissed in Toscana and Umbria

From page G1

table wine) in huge aluminum barrels. She says these are produced using the farm's harvest of Sangiovese, Trebbiano and Cabernet grapes, all typical of the Chianti area.

The farm also produces *vin santo*, a fortified wine, using raisined Malvasia grapes which, Laura says, is best served with biscotti.

The signora is also proud of Ipini's abundant harvest of olives. She says these are pressed in a traditional oil mill, giving a top quality *olio di oliva extravergine* (extravirgin olive oil).

You can buy these products from the farm. A bottle of table wine for 3.50 euros, *vin santo* for euro 8.50 and a liter of olive oil for 12 euro (1 euro is equivalent to about P68). A bit more pricey than those in groceries, but definitely of traditional quality. We bought two cartons of *vino rosso* to give away as gifts.

My family and I wanted to explore other regions as well. After all, Toscana isn't the only place in Italy with rustic panoramas and delightful treasures to discover. So we traveled by car to the region of Umbria in the province of Perugia, in search of Spoleto, a Romanesque town with old castles, fortresses and arcades.

We stayed in a honeybee farm that offered bed and breakfast, the Albergo Villa Cristina, ran by husband and wife, Signor Angelo Banconi and Signora Ana Maria Capoccia. The main house is painted a vibrant peach, with a gazebo looking out to the mountains.

Villa Cristina is a family-run business as well. Angelo is a *carabinieri* (military police) who decided to grow honeybees after retirement. He now has 700 colonies and produces several varieties of honey like *trifoglio*, acacia and the thick and dark-colored *melata*, each with a unique and natural flavor depending on the flower that the bees feed on.

Angelo takes care of the processing of the honey while his teenage son does the bottling and packing. Ana Maria takes care of the bed and breakfast.

Captivating sights

While in Spoleto, we drove to the nearby towns of Spelo and Montefalco for more sight-seeing. Spelo is an enchanting ancient town set high on a mountain. Its narrow, winding and rolling streets and passageways, lined with hydrangeas and lavender, are truly captivating.

VIEW of the mountains in Spoleto

Montefalco boasts of small shops and delicatessens selling an assortment of food items from hand-rolled pastas, fruits and vegetables, salad oil, balsamic vinegar, cheeses and liquor. Perhaps the most exotic is the *tartuffo* or truffles.

It's amazing that these dark, wrinkled and unremarkable-looking fungi, found underground, are quite expensive because of their rarity. A kilogram of the common black variety costs 120 euros, while the more exotic white truffle runs anywhere from 500-1,000 euros per kilogram!

This delicacy is used to flavor a variety of dishes, some of which I was fortunate to sample. For appetizers, I had *crostini con tartuffo*, toasted rustic bread topped with black truffles, grated garlic and olive oil; and *fritata con tartuffo* or white truffle omelette. The *primi piati* or first plate was spaghetti with black truffle sauce.

The way I could describe the taste of black truffle is that it has a very delicate, earthy, organic flavor, a cross between a nut and fresh corn. White truffle has a stronger flavor and an equally-powerful smell (some say it smells like kerosene). Definitely an acquired taste.

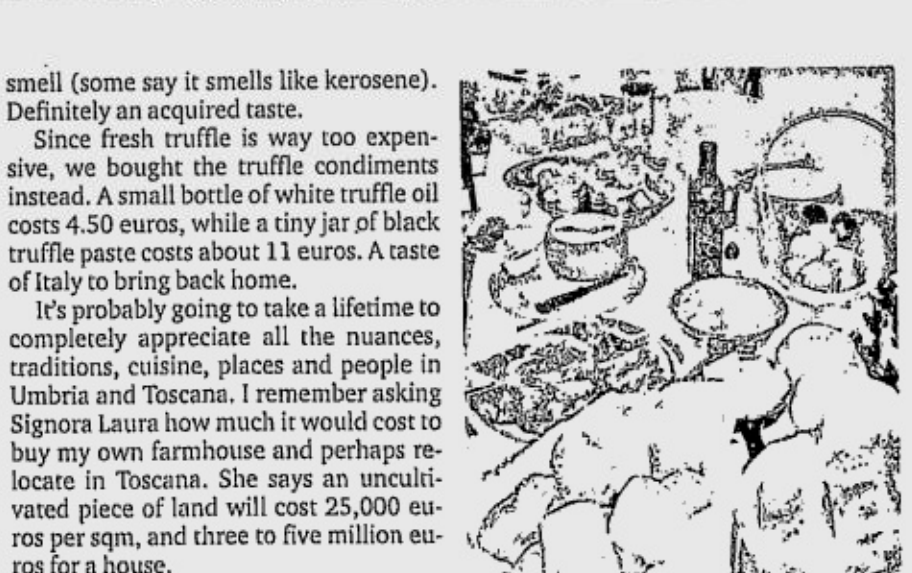
Since fresh truffle is way too expensive, we bought the truffle condiments instead. A small bottle of white truffle oil costs 4.50 euros, while a tiny jar of black truffle paste costs about 11 euros. A taste of Italy to bring back home.

It's probably going to take a lifetime to completely appreciate all the nuances, traditions, cuisine, places and people in Umbria and Toscana. I remember asking Signora Laura how much it would cost to buy my own farmhouse and perhaps relocate in Toscana. She says an uncultivated piece of land will cost 25,000 euros per sqm, and three to five million euros for a house.

It seems I won't be buying my own farmhouse anytime soon. But it sure was great, even for just a while, to experience life under the Tuscan and Umbrian sun.

TUSCAN breakfast fare: *prosciutto crudo*, salami, country-style bread, *formaggio*, apple cake, biscotti, jams and hazelnut spread

VILLA Cristina's gazebo



TUSCAN landscape

TRAVELBRIEFS

Hassle-free vacation

WHITE Rock is offering an all-inclusive affordable price of only P2,275 per person.

Guests can avail of four-sharing de-luxe accommodations (triple and twin sharing accommodations at slightly higher rates), all-day buffet meals and use of the resort's swimming pools with waterfalls, KTV/bar, recreation center, children's playpen, wide and long beach, and others.

For a two-night stay, guests get an additional discount of 10 percent plus free use of kayaks.

The resort has a whole range of activities to keep guests busy such as water sports (jet skiing, sailing, water biking, snorkeling) at Greg's Waterworld; and spa and massage services (reflexology, Shiatsu/Swedish body massage, hand and foot therapeutic spa, and complete salon services) at the Wellness Center at very reasonable prices. Discounts are given to those availing of the package.

White Rock also has bowling lanes (10-lane ten pin) and badminton courts. A new restaurant on the beach is scheduled to open this month. Kids will have lots of play areas. Lifeguards constantly monitor the kiddie pools to ensure the swimmers' safety. Patrons who wish to enjoy White Rock on a long-term basis—one or two years—can avail of the two-in-one VIP Privilege Card offering numerous benefits such as discounts and special treats.

To know more about the VIP Privilege Card and/or for room reservations, call 6876139/41 or fax 6876136 or 4212781/82. You may also visit www.whiterocksubic.com.

Holiday party offers for groups

SEVEN Suites Hotel Observatory in Antipolo has Special Christmas Party Package. Cristina Yap, sales and marketing manager, said the package was made for groups wanting to celebrate the Christmas season free of hassles. The package, designed for companies, associations, organizations, and classes, is available for groups of from 50 to 300. Prices range from P400+ to P700+ per person. The package includes the use of the function room for five hours; buffet dinner or lunch with one round of iced tea, soda, bottled beer; party table centerpiece; and videoke use. Corkage fee is waived for four regular-sized bottles of wine. Also part of the package is an overnight stay for two in the Star Suites, Mythical Suites or Romance Suites with complimentary breakfast. Guests can peek through the high-powered telescope of the hotel with the assistance of the in-house astronomer. Seven Suites has ample parking space for guests. It can provide an acoustic band for a minimal charge. Seven Suites Hotel Observatory is at Hollywood Hills Subdivision, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City (across Valley Golf Country Club). Call 4266476 or 9268985.

Hotel has Christmas Season packages

THE RICHMONDE Hotel offers irresistible room rates Dec. 11, 2004 to Jan. 9, 2005. Get value-for-money with the hotel's Christmas Season packages. You get great discounts when you stay overnight and even lower rates when you book for a three-night stay. The special holiday room rates start at P2,200 for an overnight stay in a deluxe room, P2,600 for a junior suite, P3,000 for a one-bedroom suite and P4,000 for a two-bedroom suite. Enjoy bigger discounts when you stay for three consecutive nights. You may also stay for two nights and get a gift certificate for your third night (valid until March 31). At P6,000, you may avail of the three-night package for a deluxe room—P7,000 for a junior suite, P8,000 for a one-bedroom suite and P10,000 for a two-bedroom suite. All rates are inclusive of buffet breakfast, complimentary use of the Health Club facilities like the indoor pool and steam and sauna rooms, and 10-percent discount on all services at Head Zone. One- and two-bedroom suites have kitchen and dining facilities. Make The Richmonde Hotel your holiday getaway with family, friends and loved ones, and get a chance to win exciting trips and prizes in the raffle courtesy of The Foreign Post, Maribago Bluewater Beach Resort and Seair, Inc. This offer is available only to local residents and expatriates with Alien Certificates of Registration only. Call 6387777.

Budget Christmas party package

City Saver Hotel in Quezon City is offering a budget rate for Christmas parties. For only P300-P450 per person, minimum of 30 guests, groups can use the function room for five hours. The package includes a party table centerpiece, videoke set-up, waived corkage for two regular-sized bottles of wine and an overnight stay in a deluxe room with complimentary breakfast for two, convertible to a gift certificate. City Saver has a special package to thank clients this holiday season. Those staying for three consecutive nights in a deluxe room gets a special massage at the Dream Spa. City Saver Hotel now has 46 rooms. The deluxe room is available for P990 while the standard room costs P880. City Saver Hotel is at 26 Kamias Road, QC. Call 4266476/ 9268985.

UAE marks founding anniversary

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), a confederation of seven emirates in the Middle East, marked the anniversary of its founding Dec. 2. With a population of around three million, UAE is the most progressive member of the Gulf (Arab) Cooperation Council that is composed of UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ruler of Abu Dhabi, is the new UAE president. He succeeds his late father, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who became the first president of UAE when it was founded in 1971 and ruled the confederation for 33 years.

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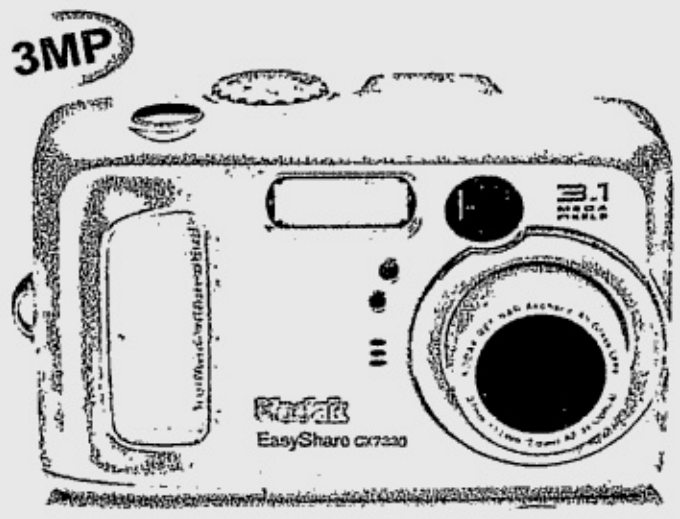

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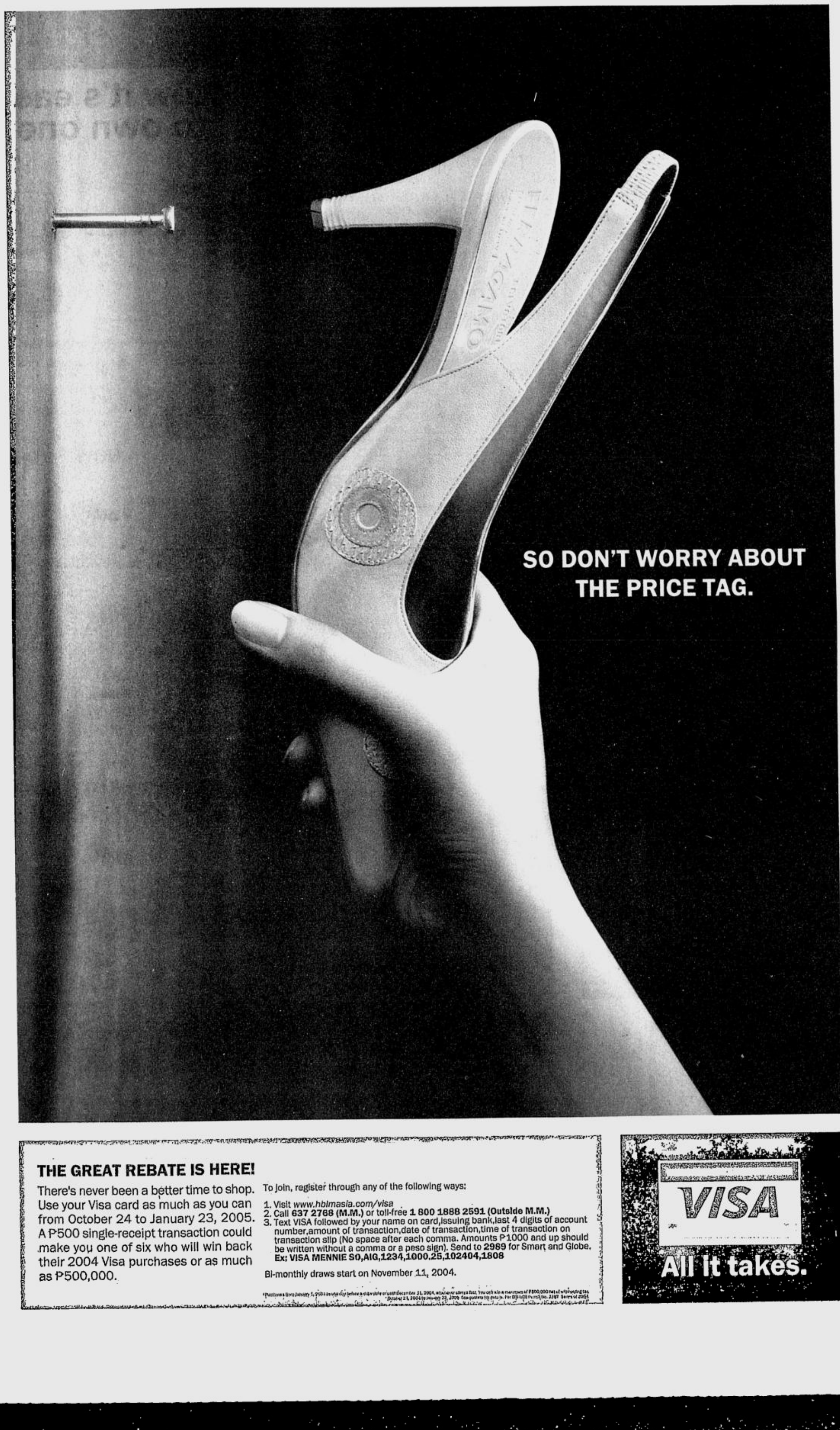

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Bi-monthly draws start on November 11, 2004.

*Purchases from January 1, 2004 to validity before a draw date except December 31, 2004, whatever comes first. You can win a maximum of P500,000 net of withholding tax.
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STANDING: Antonio Abacan, Placido Mapa, Napoleon Abueva, Dr. George Ty, Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland, and Mrs. Mary Jane Abacan. Seated: Fitzsimon Herrera, Michael Gonzales, Noli Manalang, Florence Cinco, Jaypee Samson, Reynald Mujeres, and Dan Raralio

Mapa, Norma Baja, Lovely Romulo, Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland, Mrs. Mary Jane Abacan, Dr. George Ty and Antonio Abacan

Art competition expands coverage

FOR THE PAST 20 years, Metrobank Foundation has been providing a venue and an opportunity for talented amateur Filipino artists to gain fame and fortune through its annual national painting competition.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

Now the foundation has decided that Metrobank Art and Design Excellence National Competition 2004 will include sculpture, architecture and interior design.

Winners in the painting (oil and watercolor) competition—Jaypee Samson, Reynald Mujeres, John Paul Castillo, Michael Gonzales, Noli Manalang, and Fitzsimon Herrera—received medallions designed by former YPA (Young Painters Annual) winner Noell El Farol. Entitled "*Mula*," the trophy was shaped like a rice grain, signifying the harvest of crops.

The special award winner received a medallion designed by former YPA winner Roberto Feleo that conjured light-incorporating spiral and the sun's movements.

Winners in the sculpture category were Florence Cinco and Dan Raralio.

Thank-you dinner

The ever gracious and talented artist and philanthropist Ingrid Sala Santamaria hosted a dinner at her residence for French Ambassador Renee Veyret in appreciation of the honor conferred upon her by the French government, the *Chevalier Dans l'Ordre National du Merite*.

Among the guests were S.O.S. founder Louis Paul Heussaff and Mme Heussaff; Jose Moreno, a.k.a. Pitoy; Fr Gabriel Casal; Bernard Regnauld-Fabre, deputy head of mission of the French Embassy; Celia Laurel and son Cocoy; my favorite columnist and critic, Baby Orosa; Rupert and Tina Jacinto; and Air France GM Louis Vergeon.

The *hors d'oeuvres* were enough to feed a small army not to mention the sit-down dinner with champagne toasts that followed.

But the phenomenal part of the evening was Ingrid playing the very difficult and demanding Rachmaninoff Concerto #3, in full, that she had been practicing for the past month (10 hours a day) with Jonathan Coo. She will be playing the classical piece in Manila and in the United States.

Now that's a hostess! Not only did she feed us, she entertained us as well. It's a tough act to follow.

Portuguese pianist

In the mean time, the *culturatti* members of the diplomatic corps and friends of Portuguese Ambassador Joao da Silva and the charming Mme. Ulrike da Silva enjoyed an evening of exquisite classical selections by Portuguese piano virtuoso Antonio Rosado, who played Chopin, Debussy and Liszt, aside from music by Portuguese composers Fragoso and de Freitas during the Portuguese celebration in October.

Mr. Rosado played his first concert at the age of eight. He is the first Portuguese pianist to perform Debussy's complete preludes and etudes. He has likewise performed Mozart's complete piano sonatas.

Antiquated

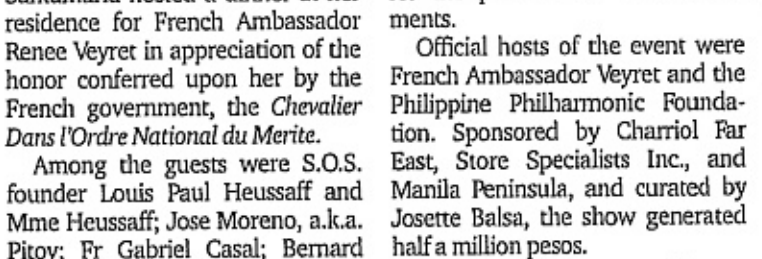
Would you believe the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra is still using the same antiquated instruments from the time of Mrs. Marcos? Well, it is.

So we have to depend on the generosity of Franco-American artists like Alexandre Charriol, who donated proceeds from his recent painting exhibition at the gallery of the Manila Peninsula to the Cultural Center of the Philippines' trust fund for the purchase of new instruments.

Official hosts of the event were French Ambassador Veyret and the Philippine Philharmonic Foundation. Sponsored by Charriol Far East, Store Specialists Inc., and Manila Peninsula, and curated by Josette Balsa, the show generated half a million pesos.

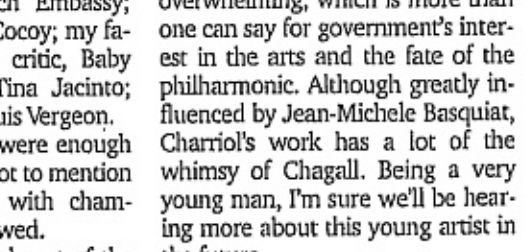
The young artist's generosity was overwhelming, which is more than one can say for government's interest in the arts and the fate of the philharmonic. Although greatly influenced by Jean-Michele Basquiat, Charriol's work has a lot of the whimsy of Chagall. Being a very young man, I'm sure we'll be hearing more about this young artist in the future.

We need something like P36 million, that is a little over half a million dollars. Too bad "conversion" money never reaches the arts.

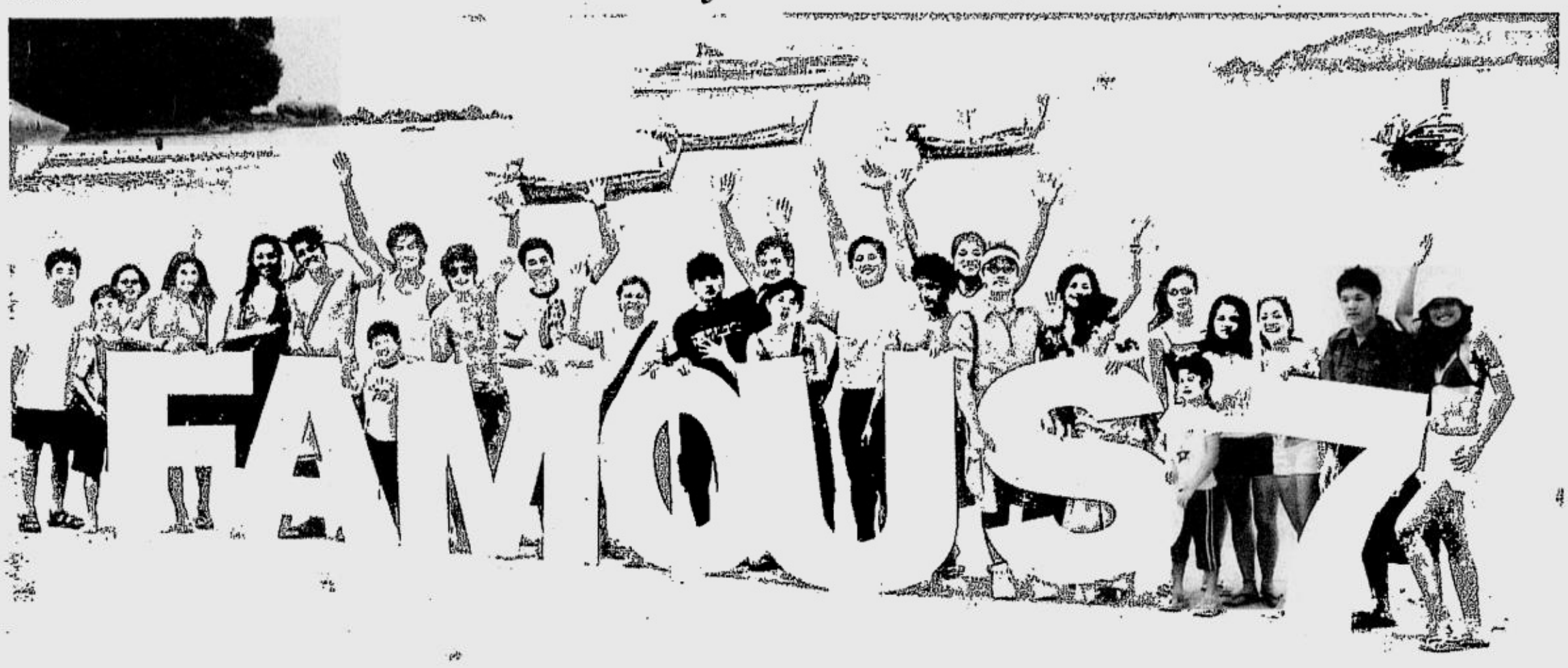


INGRID Sala Santamaria, French Ambassador Renee Veyret, Mrs. Philippe Salud, wife of the French cultural attache, and Mrs. Paul-Louis Heusaff

METROBANK executive director Aniceto Sobrepeña



PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao da Silva and Mme. Ulrike da Silva with Miss Portugal



Luau at high sea

LORNA Tolentino and Rudy Fernandez with kids Renz and Raphael

GLYDEL Mercado and Tonton Gutierrez

GEM Padilla and Toni Abad

PARADISE was found off Phuket, Thailand. Paradise Night, that is. The affair was part of "Famous–The Voyage Party," on board the Super Star Virgo of Star Cruises.

For its seventh voyage, Famous sailed back to Singapore, Penang, Malaysia and Phuket, Thailand.

After coming back from their Phuket excursion, Famous guests rushed to their rooms to prepare for the luau, Famous style. All came in their own interpretation of "Paradise" and partied all night at Super Star Virgo's Parthenon Poolside.

Pretty "Starstruck" talent Yasmien Kurdi and handsome Raphael Fernandez were voted as the Mr. and Ms. Paradise. Yasmien wore a belly-baring island midriff, sarong skirt with grass accent, and white and red lei; and Raphael wore his paisley print shirt.

Hawaiian and other flowered shirts were the in-thing for the night, as worn by matinee idol TonTon Gutierrez; billboard staple and hot young thing, Luke Jickain; veteran actor Rudy Fernandez and son Renz; designer Rajo Laurel; photographer Patrick Uy and sons Gregory, Christopher and Timothy; and model Zanjoe Marudo.

Award-winning actor Christopher de Leon was in a white shirt that flattered his body, while model Corey Wills matched girlfriend Raya Mananquil's bohemian beach chic in mobcap and gypsy bandanna.

Most of the girls were either in sarong skirts and brief tops, or in scoop-necked, sleeveless shift dresses: drama queen Lorna Tolentino, who accented her outfit with a bright red shawl; badminton buddies Carol Francisco, Luz Siguion-Reyna and Rina Aguilar; and Evelyn Uy.

CHRISTOPHER de Leon

MIKAELA and Gabriel de Leon

Actress Glydel Mercado had a bright orange sarong as accent, while pink was the color for these ladies: former beauty queen Gem Padilla, Toni Abad of Essenses, TV host Phoemela Baranda, and model Bubbles Paraiso.

PR guru Keren Pascual, the man behind Famous, came in green top and flowered shorts, while his assistant, Mark Ang, left the flowers to his shorts, and donned a white top.

MARK Ang and Luke Jickain

YASMIEN Kurdi and Zanjoe Marudo

PARADISE NIGHT. The Famous 7 Cruise participants: (back row) Toni Abad, Rajo Laurel, Tonton Gutierrez, Glydel Mercado, Zanjoe Marudo, Luke Jickain, Rudy Fernandez, Mark Ang; (front row) Rina Aguilar, Luz Siguion-Reyna, Lorna Tolentino, Gem Padilla, Bubbles Paraiso, Phoemela Baranda, Raya Mananquil, Corey Wills, Raph Fernandez, Famous organizer Keren Pascual, Yasmien Kurdi and Carol Francisco

PARADISE beauties Bubbles Paraiso and Phoemela Baranda

PHOTOGRAPHER Patrick Uy and wife Evelyn

STAR Cruises' assistant sales manager for international sales Ong Kong Hwee and Rajo Laurel

RAYA Mananquil and Corey Wills

LUZ Siguion-Reyna, Rina Aguilar and Carol Francisco

Hitting the Road

with SMART Pamilyang Pinoy and SMART Padala

What better time than the season of giving and sharing should SMART hit the road with its innovative and OFW-friendly service SMART Pamilyang Pinoy? To further create awareness among OFW families and promote the benefits of the SMART Pamilyang Pinoy program, SMART launched a Pamilyang Pinoy Roadshow last August 21 that has taken place every week and nationwide since then.

The SMART Pamilyang Pinoy program basically helps SMART subscribers with loved ones working abroad who actively use IDD by offering them free rebates. By keying in REG <name> <address> and sending to 433, OFW families can become members of SMART Pamilyang Pinoy and enjoy these rebates. The more often they use SMART IDD, the higher their rebates are. In addition, SMART Pamilyang Pinoy has gone around the country to seek out these OFW families and have treated them to free gifts and now, this Roadshow. Just one of the ways SMART thanks both the OFWs and their families for their noble sacrifices for one another. The SMART Pamilyang Pinoy program began its trek across the archipelago in August, and it might just be heading your way before long.

The free entertainment SMART's Pamilyang Pinoy Roadshow has been treating its subscribers to are as diverse as Drawing Contests to Singing Contests and special programs featuring celebrities who explain SMART's various programs for OFWs and delight them in the end with song and dance numbers.

The Drawing Contest, which takes place in the mornings, is for grade school students in the relevant areas of the roadshow. Various mediums can be used for the youngsters to illustrate how they perceive the given theme: "How telecommunications affect our lives". The creativity and display of a natural flair for art by some students at such a young age is remarkable. The Singing Contest is for older high school students, also from various schools in the participating area. In this case, the song they are asked to perform is the SMART IDD jingle composed by music maestro Ryan Cayabyab, "Yakap ng Boses Mo". In both contests, SMART gives away cellphones and cash prizes to the winners, as well as cash prizes to the winning schools.

Each roadshow culminates with a 2-hour program featuring the likes of SOP Gigsters, Dang Cruz, Chynna Ortaleza, Brad Turvey and more. Free gifts are handed out and free calls are offered to make them aware of SMART Pamilyang Pinoy and to encourage them to sign up for the service. The whole of Metro Manila has already been covered, with larger areas like Caloocan City, San Juan, Quezon City, Valenzuela City, Marikina City and Makati City drawing in huge crowds.

Another aim of the roadshow is to promote SMART Padala—the world's first international cash remittance through text. The ease and convenience of using SMART Padala is unmatched. First, simply have your family member abroad visit any of the SMART Padala Remittance partners abroad. Second, they will be asked to fill out an information sheet which will then be submitted to the cashier along with the amount of foreign currency to be remitted. Third, the beneficiary in the Philippines will receive an assigned SMART Money account number via text. Fourth, the beneficiary in the Philippines simply has to activate his SMART Money account through his SMART cellfone. Fifth, the SMART Padala Remittance Partners abroad will send the cash remittance directly to the beneficiary's SMART Money account. And lastly, all the beneficiary has to do is visit any SMART Padala Center in the Philippines to collect the cash remittance.

Now that Metro Manila has been covered, it's time for the SMART Pamilyang Pinoy Roadshow to go nationwide. Standby for some great entertainment and exciting contests for your kids to partake in when SMART hits a town near you.

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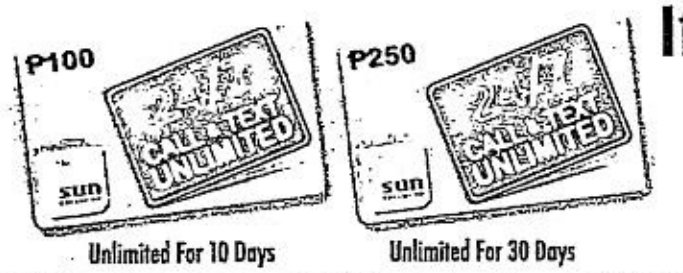

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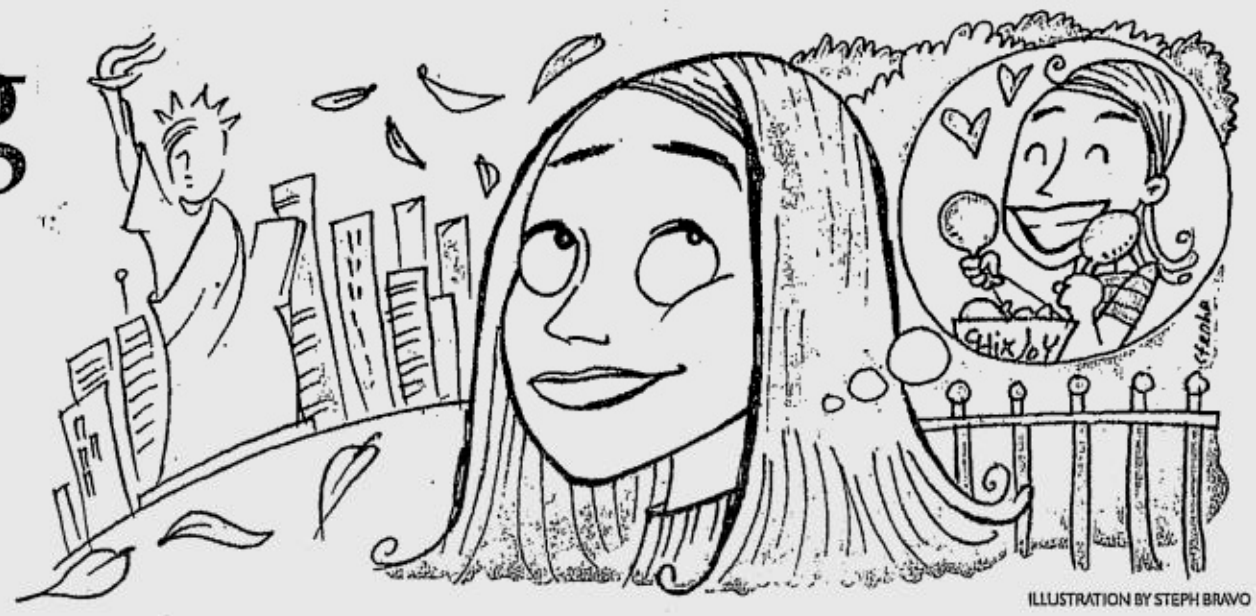


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

I had to leave the Philippines and come to New York to find out that... I was home all along

By Beia Formoso
Contributor

NEW YORK—I have come to a conclusion.

New York does not impress me. I feel nothing about being here. When I arrived and set foot on New York soil, I did not feel anything at all.

At first that scared me because I wanted New York to be that "place" for me—the place where you would discover yourself, where you would be at peace, where, even though you had never been there, you would feel as if you were coming home—but it wasn't. And now I know it isn't, even though I was born here.

I talked to my friend Anima last week, when I slept over at her place, about my feelings toward New York. She totally agreed.

I thought about our friend January and how, when she went to Japan, she was all excited and happy. The plane hadn't even touched the ground and already she was ecstatic.

So I tried to think of a place that I soooo wanted to go to and see. And I honestly could not think of any, in that sense. I mean, I would like to travel the world—who doesn't?—but there is no one place that I feel I absolutely must see.

When January left Japan, she was sad. Anima said she felt that way about Paris; she cried and cried when she left that city.

So I tried to think of a place that I had been to that I felt sad about leaving. And I couldn't think of any.

I have been to a number of places—not a whole lot, but more than most people my age have been to. Yeah, I have some nice memories of bicycling along sunflower fields in Italy, staring into an eternal horizon from a cruise ship, etc, etc.

Singapore is probably the only place I would consider living in if I had to live somewhere other than home. I really liked the cleanliness and the discipline. But the times that I had been there, I never felt sad about leaving Singapore at all.

Excited as hell

And then it hit me. The one place that I always feel sooooo happy to go to, that I am excited about and just can't wait to be at is... home. The Philippines.

Anima was saying that she liked going home, too, but it's not just that for me. When I am coming home I am excited as hell. I love buying gifts and *pasalubong* for everyone back home.

When I am abroad I am always craving for "chickenjoy" and *tapa*, even if I am only away for a few days! On the plane heading home I am thinking of all these things and can almost taste them.

I love talking to Pinoys on the plane, or *kahit sa* airport *pa lang*. To OFWs especially, because I know they are feeling the same way I am feeling. We talk in Tagalog (even though my Tagalog isn't good) about places and food and family. And it is just wonderful!

At first Anima thought I was just feeling homesick, but I explained as best I could that what I was feeling was more than that.

Why was I trying to find myself elsewhere when I was myself all along in the Philippines? The girl I had been when I moved there nine years ago wasn't the person anymore who left for New York a few months ago.

Living in the Philippines all this time, little did I know that I was growing into the person I had always wanted to become. And truth be told, I like who I am, I like the person I have become in the Philippines.

The Philippines has been "it" all along—where I've found myself, where I can live. IT is home. And Anima understood that — because of where I'm coming from. Having been born and having grown up in another place, moving to the Philippines was for me what coming to New York is for a lot of people.

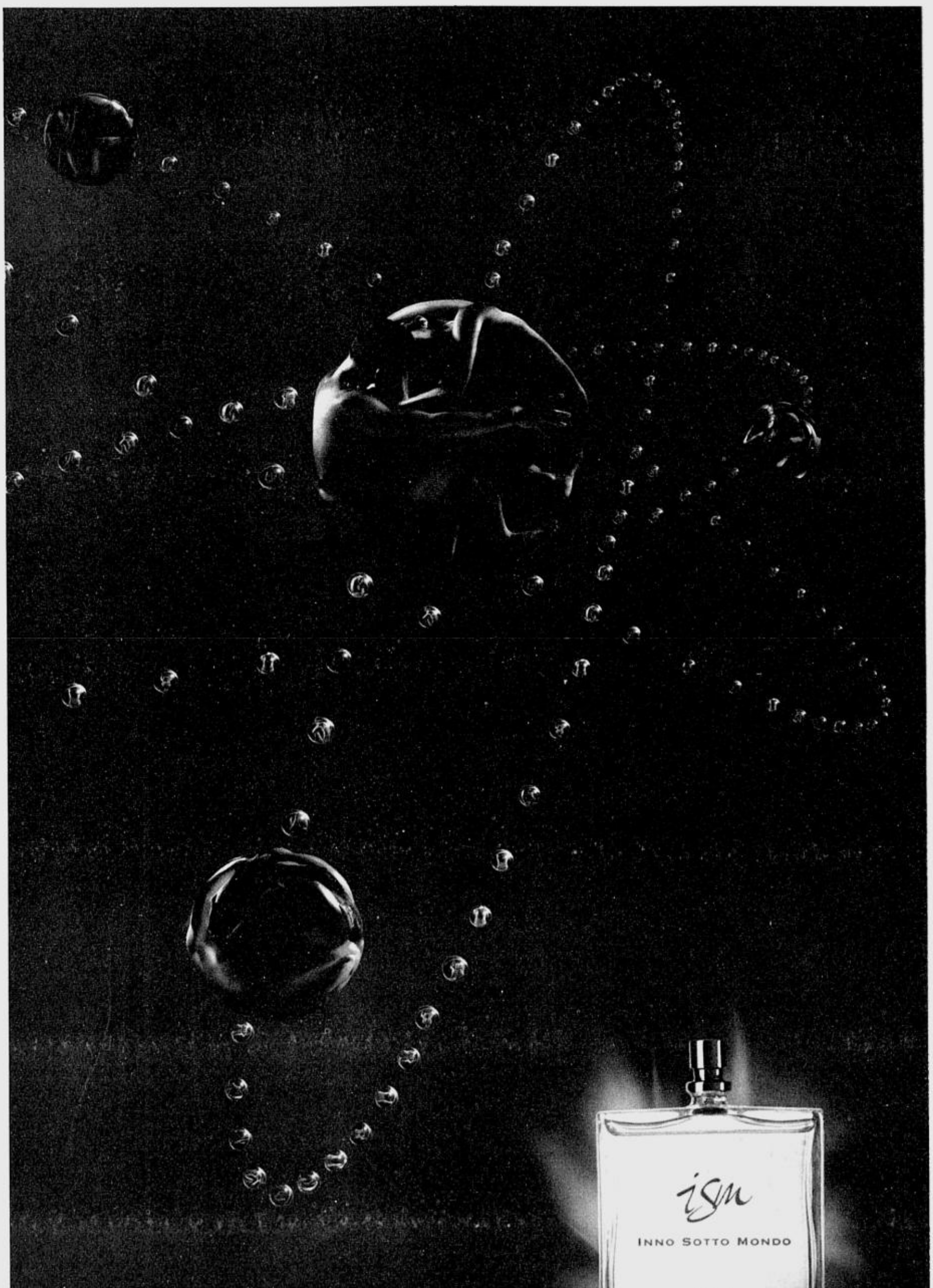
A beautiful thing

Another thing that I realized is, there must be a reason that my mom and dad, no matter where they lived or how long they lived there, never lost their sense of home.

I am totally proud of the fact that they never became American citizens when left and right our Pinoy friends were choosing to give up their Filipino passports. I asked them rather innocently why they didn't do that, and they replied, "Because we are Filipinos." Simply, subtly, that's all there is to it.

When all this dawned on me, I couldn't help but cry. It is such a beautiful thing to realize where you belong, and that where you belong is exactly where you want to be.

I had to leave the Philippines and come to New York to find out that I didn't have to leave in the first place. I was home all along.



ART lovers Marty and Jana del Prado

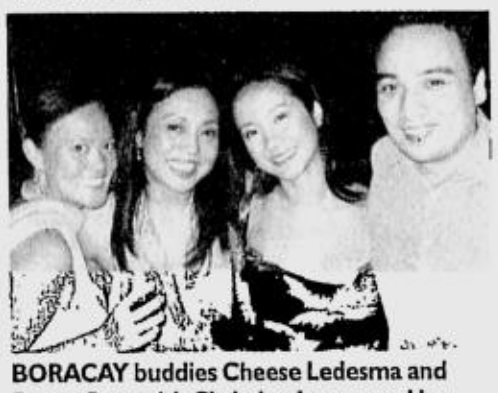
PINKY Amador and Leah Navarro with Le Club president Philippe Gauthier

HUSBAND-AND-WIFE photographers Claudine Sia and Neil Lucente

MODELS enjoying art. Corey Wills and Raya Mananquil

ASIAN Spirit couple Toti and Jing Turralba

FLAMENCO classmate Evelyn Forbes and kitchen wiz Annie Young


BORACAY buddies Cheese Ledesma and Rosan Cruz with Christine Laman and Ian Antonino

DREAMSTYLE guests Randy and Irene Francisco and Helen and Sonny Ong

Parties and charities—and Frenchmen—should go together

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Frenchmen have a license to be charming even if married, and they will surely guarantee a fun evening

AS I look out the window of the 33rd floor studio of photographer **Isa Lorenzo**, I marvel at the nightscape of the Makati skyline. Seeing the view at night from The Fort, at that level, dramatically illustrates our picture-perfect city. If all international planes arrived after sunset, our country would double our tourist visitors.

Changing professions in midlife, Dr. Isa gave up her residency at Philippine General Hospital (she was the funky blonde doctor) and moved to New York to try intensive photography, her true passion. Her black-and-white photos are forceful and very moving. At her recently concluded exhibit featuring breast cancer, a striking perspective of hope, faith and peace was expressed through her amazing photos.

After missing countless openings due to my prenatal lethargy, I finally caught the photographic exhibit of **Claudine Sia** featuring folk religion. I have been photographed by the husband-and-wife tandem of Claudine and **Neil** before, when I did a campaign for Anonymous. In one photo I was covered all over with orange makeup by drama enhancer **Eric Maningat**, shot behind a loud background. Claudine's artistic eye is quite out of the box and totally refreshing.

My ulterior motive for attending was to check out the art world crowd, always more eccentric than the usual fashion set. I also wanted to find tips for my single friends—perhaps this might be a possible nesting place of the dying bachelor breed. Unfortunately, only a handful of guests were foreign to me and the rest were my usual gamut of friends, single women and gay men!

Maternity-dress scouting

Half of the crowd was the same pack in the

PREGNANT trio. Leica Carpo, Romina Urra and Jeena Lopez

EXPAT guests Tina Schumacher, Robert de Quelen and Henry Schumacher

EXECUTIVES James Go, Princess Banal and Olivier de la Bernardie

Metrowear 2005 Fashion show held last week at ABS-CBN's new ELJ Building. I desperately had to attend that affair even if it was in that end of the woods because I needed to scout around for possible maternity haute couture. Very fashionable **Leica Carpo** of L'Oréal also needed to be there since the event also showcased the L'Oreal Vintage Amber Fall-Winter hair trend. Thanks to our extended closet supplier, **Rajo Laurel**, we were outfitted properly and all set to be with other style urbanites.

Earlier that week, creative Rajo had a separate fashion show at the residence of British Ambassador **Paul Dimond**. His few but important pieces were made from fabrics and weaves from the different regions, mostly Mindanao, an advocacy of former Sen. **Loren Legarda**. On a personal note, I am just glad I watched the show and discovered more options that I could borrow from Rajo sometime.

I am a total supporter of our local, very talented designers. The Metrowear show was exceptional, especially the pieces of **Rhett Eala** and my other "fashion emergency supplier," **Patrice Ramos-Diaz**. It is wonderful that our designers are able to showcase their creations to boost the local fashion industry.

Together with the show was an exhibit of 2005 fashion accessories by my favorite jewelry crafters, like **Butch Carungay, Wynn Wynn Ong** and **Arnel Papa**, to name a few. All of them work away from typical diamond and pearl settings but use unusual materials like semiprecious stones, carabao bone, coral and metal. Since I prioritize my dressing with accessories first, they play an important role in my overall attire.

Accessories-hunting

I was lucky to get a second glimpse of the collection of Wynn Wynn the very next day at the most stylish event of Firma Makati duo, **Chito Vijandre** and **Ricky Toledo**. Dreamstyles was an intimate unveiling of the latest innovations in all my favorite things: jewelry, fashion accessories and mobile technology. **Margarita Fores** catered and served an excellent menu highlighted by champagne, caviar and roast beef.

Though the bejeweled bag masterpieces of **Bea Valdes** were astonishing, I was concentrating on the salmon tartare, grilled scallops and the entire cheese station. I couldn't peel myself away from the wonderfully decorated buffet table. I almost felt the waiter warning me as I sped past the antipasti speed limit. Of course, I was just paranoid as it had been awhile since I ate for two.

After my tummy could not take in another sliced pear, I had to rush to the other big event that evening, the Soiree Beaujolais at the NBC Tent. The annual French harvest festival hosted by Le Club French Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines filled the tent with close to 2,000 guests—mostly expats and wine and food lovers. The Champs Elysees stage design carried the theme of the night with dance performances by "Lion King" dancer **Julie Alagde** and the Airdance.

This is one event my single girlfriends should attend. Frenchmen have a license to be charming even if married and they will surely guarantee a fun evening. And if the girls don't find anyone interesting, there are always spectacular prizes such as Jewelmer pearls, Raffles Fine Arts furniture, Boracay trips via Asian Spirit (one of which was won but waived by gracious **Johnny Litton**), a wellness package at The Farm in San Benito courtesy of HSBC and finally, a round trip ticket to Paris via Air France-KLM.

Together with accomplished international stage, TV and film actress **Pinky Amador** and multi-awarded singer and golfer **Leah Navarro**, we toasted the organizers for a successful night and acknowledged Le Club's support for the scholarship funds for five UP students. Charity should always be integrated into any event. It just makes the affair more meaningful.

Mercy-seeking

Another upcoming event generating awareness and help is the Philippines Cancer Society Ball at the Mandarin Hotel this Dec. 7. Aside from honoring 12 inspiring and compassionate style icons, the ball intends to raise funds for cancer research and patient services.

Today my cousins and I, with the help of the many supporters of the LRP Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by my relatives after the untimely demise of my brother **Louie Prieto**, are hosting a soup kitchen in a remote area of Taguig City. With all the calamities hitting our country, we should extend all the help we can give to our less fortunate countrymen. It's the perfect way to start off this Christmas season!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

RAJO Laurel creations with Habi fabrics

CLOSE siblings Nikki Teodoro and Iñigo de Leon

BEAUTIFUL guests of Firma, Monina Lopez and Nini Licaros

RETAIL friends Ricco Ocampo and new mom Mandy Santos

HABI supporters Sen. Loren Legarda and British Ambassador Paul Dimond

FUN designers Vic Barba and Tippi Ocampo

UNILEVER boss Howard Belton with wife Cristina

CREATIVE jewelry designer Wynn Wynn Ong and husband Norby

METRO Editor Thelma San Juan, Cesar Gaupo and Anthony Nocom

IRENE Araneta

METROWEAR designers Lulu Tan Gan, Ernest Santiago, Philip Rodriguez, Arcy Gayatin, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Jesus Lloren, Dennis Lustico and Rajo Laurel

GORGEOUS couple Archie Rodriguez and Bea Valdes, host Ricky Toledo and Klaus Freund

STYLISH guests Josephine Knox, jewelry designer Arnel Papa and Mia Borromeo

Redemptorists mark 50 years in Bikol

THE REDEMPTORIST fathers will hold a concert at the Baclaran church to mark the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Bikol on Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

On Dec. 9 and 10, the Redeptorists will hold a medical mission and a family advent retreat in Bonga, Legazpi City.

The celebration will culminate in the Jubilee celebration on Dec. 11. Theme is *"Sarong banggi, sarong tingog nin pasasalamat asin pag-omaw sa 50-taon nin nagsusupay na kaligtasan."*

The jubilee celebration will start at 3 p.m. with a procession to commemorate the centennial of the canonization of the Redemptorist youth-saint, Gerard Majella, followed by a Mass at 5:30, and reception at 7.

The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (C.Ss.R.), better known as the Redemptorists, first came to the Philippines in Cebu in 1906 and in Manila in 1932 from Australia.

On Dec. 14, 1954, the Redemptorists arrived in Legazpi, Albay, in the Bikol region.

The pioneer team came from Australia and New Zealand. Fr. Maurice Boland was the superior. Of the original Bikol team, Fr. Tom Hodgins is the only living member.

The mission spread in Bikol under the leadership of Fr. Eugene McSweeney who lived in the diocese for 21 years. He was supported by Fr. Michael Keenan, Fr. David Clancy and Fr. Bonifacio Flordeliza.

Last year, the Diocese of Legazpi gave a certificate of appreciation to the Redemptorist Legazpi Mission Community for 50 years of "dedicated and unflagging service" to the local church.

Quiz Bee grand finals on Dec. 10

THE 25TH National Super Quiz Bee Grand Finals will be held 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Dec. 10, at the auditorium of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Hotel and Conference Center, in Tagaytay City.

Prior to the finals, participants will have a four-day all-expense paid camp, "Summit of the Super Quiz Bee," Dec. 8-11 at the DAP.

Attending the summit are eight representatives—four students and their teacher-coaches—each from the 17 regions.

During the finals contestants will compete in the subject categories of elementary "Makabayan" (Philippine history, culture and values), elementary Mathematics, secondary Science and Technology, and collegiate General Information and International Affairs. A total of 10 questions will be asked; two questions for the easy round worth one point each, three for the average round worth two points each and five difficult questions worth three points each.

In case of a tie, a clincher round will follow. The first contestant to reach 15 points wins.

The competition does not give cash prizes since, according to Pettizou P. Tayag, vice president and spokesperson of the Quiz Bee Foundation, says they do not think money is a good motivation for students especially in their formative years.

Prizes for winners are the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo trophies, Quiz Bee Medallions of Excellence, 24 volumes of Collier's Encyclopedia, multimedia computer system, Time Life books, books from the Philippine Booksellers Association Inc., reward packages from Ovaltine Power, Papa Banana Catsup, Uni Writing Instruments, JRS Express, Purefoods Beefies Hotdog, Tetra Pak, Nestle Koko Krunch, Enchanted Kingdom, Fujifilm, Megapix Photo Inc., and Noby Cabanero Photography.

Log on to www.quizbee.net or call 7120682 or 0917-8922550.

Forum on transformation

EVANGELION Foundation Inc. will hold a public forum on Social Transformation entitled "Heal Our Land, Lord... and What Can We do?", 8:30-11:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 18 at the Greenbelt chapel in Makati.

Speakers are Social Work Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman who will speak on "Social Apostolate towards Transformation" and Bishop Chito Tagle of the Diocese of Imus who will speak on "The Spirituality of Social Transformation." Admission is free.

Mag bags two CMMA awards

BABY Magazine recently bagged two awards from the prestigious Catholic Mass Media Awards.

For the second time, Baby Magazine, now on its ninth year, got a special citation from the CMMA "for focusing on preschoolers and their respective parents; for providing parenting information with emphasis on value formation."

In 2002, Baby Magazine also received a special citation from the CMMA.

Baby Magazine columnist Marita Villafuerte won the Best Entertainment/Educational column award for her 'I am a child' column which appears monthly in the magazine.

The CMMA awards came after the successful third Baby Magazine National Baby Congress at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall where 200 babies participated in a cover model search and thousands attended the two-day event.

In the current issue, well-known ob-gyne Rebecca Singson tackles the question: Can pregnant women go on the South Beach Diet? Singson's column is a must-read for expectant moms who may have gained too much weight and want to lose the extra pounds even before childbirth.

Villafuerte, in the same issue, addresses the sensitive topic of whether to send a child to a traditional or non-traditional school.

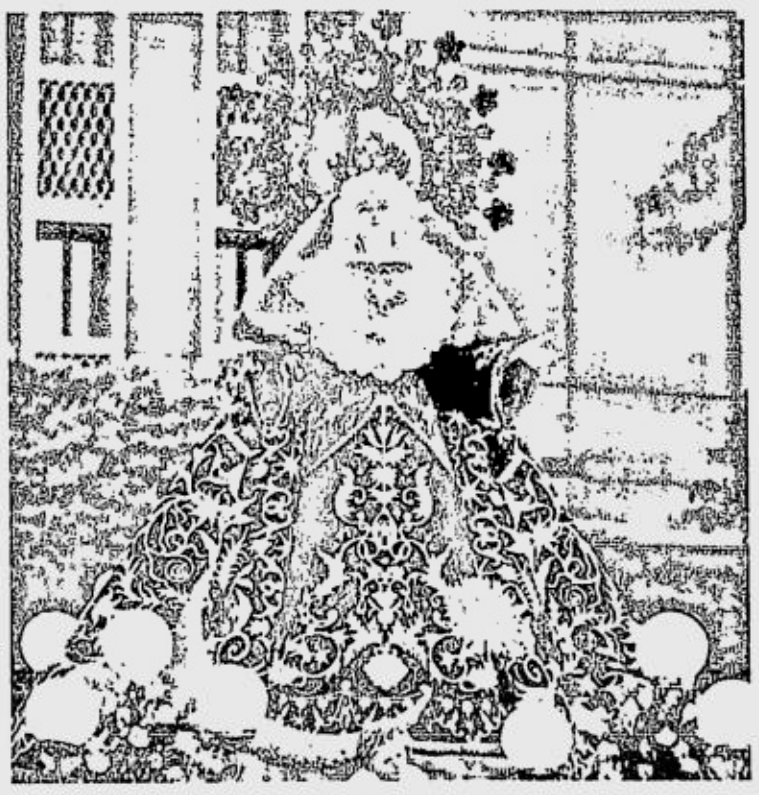
Mayang Sison-Pascual writes about "Getting intimate with your husband" for women who cannot make the first move on their spouses.

Kim Altarejos, a toy specialist, discusses caring for and storing your child's toys, while Dr. Donna Pangilinan-Simpao writes a piece entitled 'Partner with, learn from and support your yayas.'

Baby Magazine is available in all National Bookstore outlets, SM Baby Company sections, Baby & Co. at the Podium and Rockwell; and baby specialty shops.

Call 7283655 to 56.

NUESTRA Señora del Rosario de Manaoag, from the Our Lady of Manaoag Shrine, Manaoag, Pangasinan



NUESTRA Señora de la Rosa Mistica

NUESTRA Señora del Rosario de Ubanon, from the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Ubanon, Catbalogan, Samar

25th Grand Marian procession today

MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales will preside over the concelebrated *Hermana Mayor* Mass at 2 p.m. in Intramuros.

The Mass precedes the 25th Grand Marian Procession of the Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion Foundation to be held at 4 p.m. More than 60 images of the Virgin Mary on silver *carrozas* bedecked with flowers will join the procession which will start at the Manila Cathedral grounds.

This year's *hermana mayor* is Imelda O. Cojuangco, founding chair of the Cofradia.

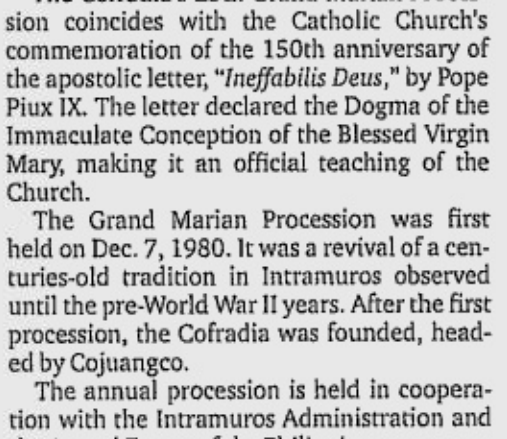
The Cofradia's 25th Grand Marian Procession coincides with the Catholic Church's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the apostolic letter, "*Ineffabilis Deus*," by Pope Piux IX. The letter declared the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, making it an official teaching of the Church.

The Grand Marian Procession was first held on Dec. 7, 1980. It was a revival of a centuries-old tradition in Intramuros observed until the pre-World War II years. After the first procession, the Cofradia was founded, headed by Cojuangco.

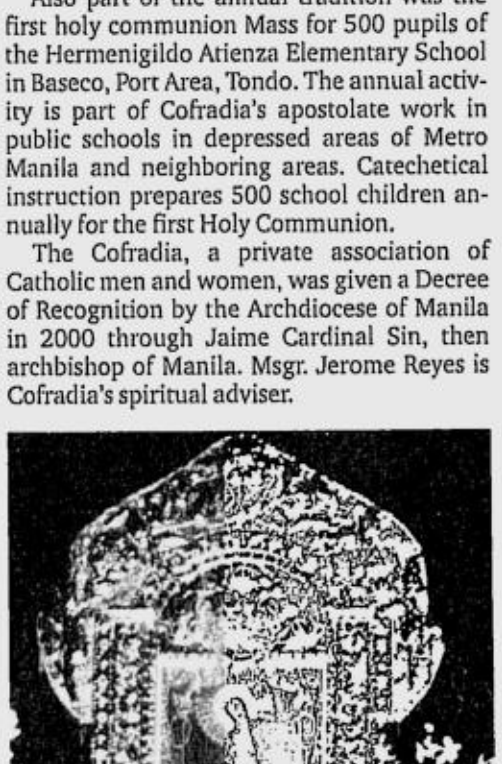
The annual procession is held in cooperation with the Intramuros Administration and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Also part of the annual tradition was the first holy communion Mass for 500 pupils of the Hermenigildo Atienza Elementary School in Baseco, Port Area, Tondo. The annual activity is part of Cofradia's apostolate work in public schools in depressed areas of Metro Manila and neighboring areas. Catechetical instruction prepares 500 school children annually for the first Holy Communion.

The Cofradia, a private association of Catholic men and women, was given a Decree of Recognition by the Archdiocese of Manila in 2000 through Jaime Cardinal Sin, then archbishop of Manila. Msgr. Jerome Reyes is Cofradia's spiritual adviser.



NUESTRA Señora de Soledad de Porta Vaga, Cavite City



VIRGEN Purisima, Lane family, Intramuros, Manila

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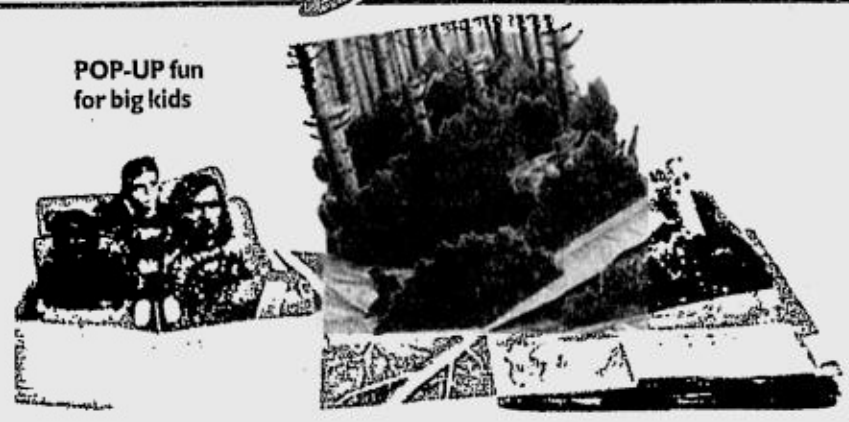
THIS HEIRESS is no airhead.

POP-UP fun for big kids



Unlike your list of schoolbooks, this reading list will not elicit yawns

Easy reading for lazy Sundays

By Pam Pastor

The Day I Swapped My Dad For Two Goldfish
By Neil Gaiman

ONE night a few years ago, Neil Gaiman scolded his son Michael for not sticking to his bedtime. This did not please little Michael. He turned to his father and said, "I wish I didn't have a dad! I wish I had a goldfish!"

These were the words that spawned Gaiman's delightful children's book, "The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish." With Gaiman's lyrical text and Dave McKean's rough but charming illustrations, the book tells of a young boy who swaps his father for, yes, two goldfish.

An adult can finish reading the book in 15 minutes but it's 15 minutes to be savored. And if you're embarrassed about keeping a children's book on your shelf, you can always say that you meant to read them to your nephews or nieces.

Neil Gaiman's book is a gem—I wouldn't swap it for even 10 goldfish.

The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon: A Pop-Up Book
By Stephen King, Adapted by Peter Abrahams

If you think pop-up books are just for kids, Stephen King might just give you a reason to change your mind. He retells the story of his award-winning, best-selling novel, "The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon," in a dark and entertaining pop-up book.

Nine-year-old Trish McFarland gets lost in the woods while hiking with her brother and recently divorced mother. The scared little girl's horror grows with every passing minute and she seeks comfort from listening to the game of her beloved Red Sox baseball pitcher Tom Gordon on her Walkman.

It's still the same chilling story—but it's made even more vivid by the work of illustrator Allan Dingman. Like other pop-up books, this book is a lot of fun (yes, you can push and pull tabs to create movement). It's a collectible—not just for kids but for Stephen King fans and grownups who have yet to let go of their inner child.

Queer book

Off the Cuff: The Essential Style Guide for Men and the Women Who Love Them
By Carson Kressley

Carson Kressley, "Queer Eye For a Straight Guy's" fashion sage, put his wisdom down in writing through an engaging, laugh-out-loud funny book. Some writer's personalities translate so well in their words that you can actually hear their voice as you read. Kressley is one such writer. He is every bit as entertaining on print as he is on television.

Kressley on underwear: "If Spongebob SquarePants or anyone affiliated with Marvel Comics appears anywhere on your underwear, please get rid of them before some unsuspecting person calls the authorities. If I find them in your underwear drawer, I might have to dial 1-800-ALARM-ME."

Kressley on pants: "I hate to see a guy with a really long rise, like when the pants are solid to his knees. Not a good look. But the converse of that is that your pants shouldn't be like a cheap hotel—no ball room. Got it? Good."

Injecting his conversational style with his signature wit, Kressley packs his pages with important tips and guidelines—why you should never wear pleated pants, the seven coats you need, a comprehensive guide to shoes, which socks to wear with which outfit, even the different ways to knot your tie.

This manual will make you thank god that Kressley stepped out of the closet and into yours. If he comes out with a book for women, I'll be first in line to buy.

Porno's heiress apparent

Confessions of an Heiress
By Paris Hilton

No, Paris Hilton's book is not just an urban legend. It's as real as her porn video.

But the pretty pink book is more than just a pretty pink book with lots of pretty pictures.

It's an inside look at the life and the mind of the infamous hotel heiress (she's the granddaughter of Conrad Hilton). There's a hilarious guide on how to be an heiress (if only it were that easy) and chapters on her sister Nicky, fashion, beauty, men, her TV show, "The Simple Life," and her beloved Chihuahua Tinkerbell. (Actually, there's a chapter written by Tinkerbell.)

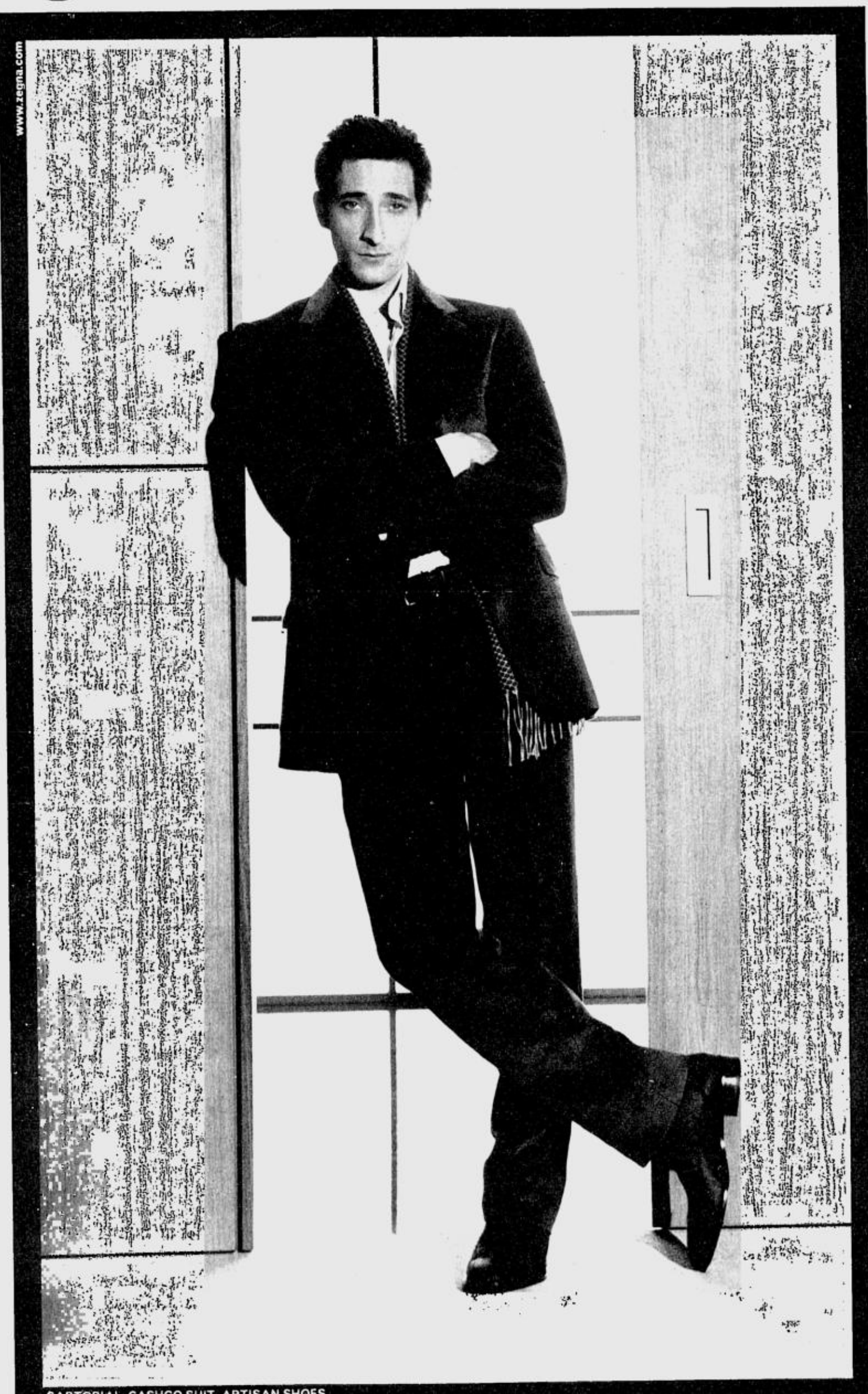
Here are a few excerpts:

"I'm a fantasy to a lot of people. They want to think that I have more fun than they do, have fewer problems, wake up looking great, go to sleep looking great, can buy and eat anything in the world I want, and get any hot guy I want."

"The people I care about know the real me. If I'm happy with who I am, what difference does it make?"

"There is no sin worse in life than being boring—and nothing worse than letting other people

EASY/J2



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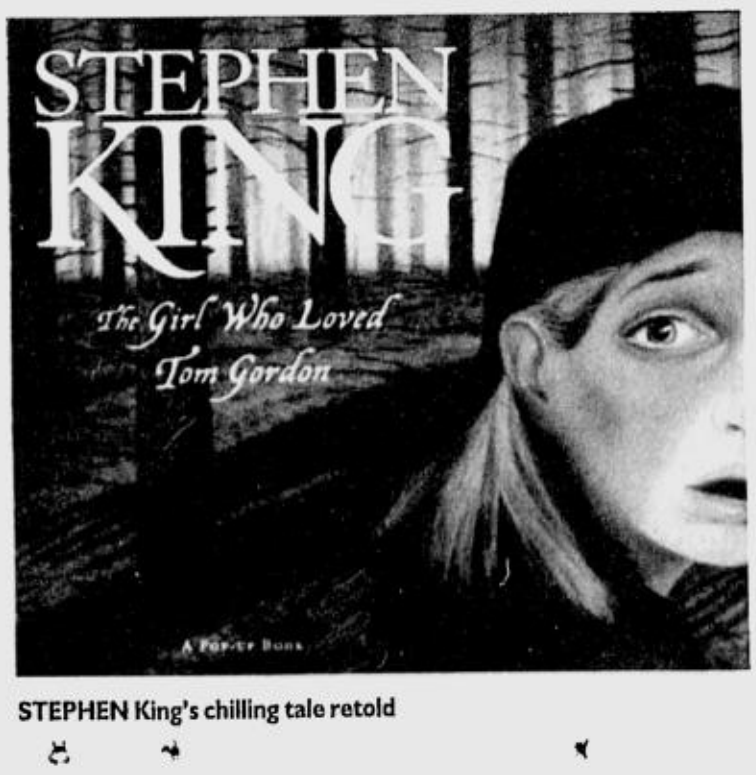

STEPHEN King's chilling tale retold

Adrien Brody for
Ermenegildo Zegna

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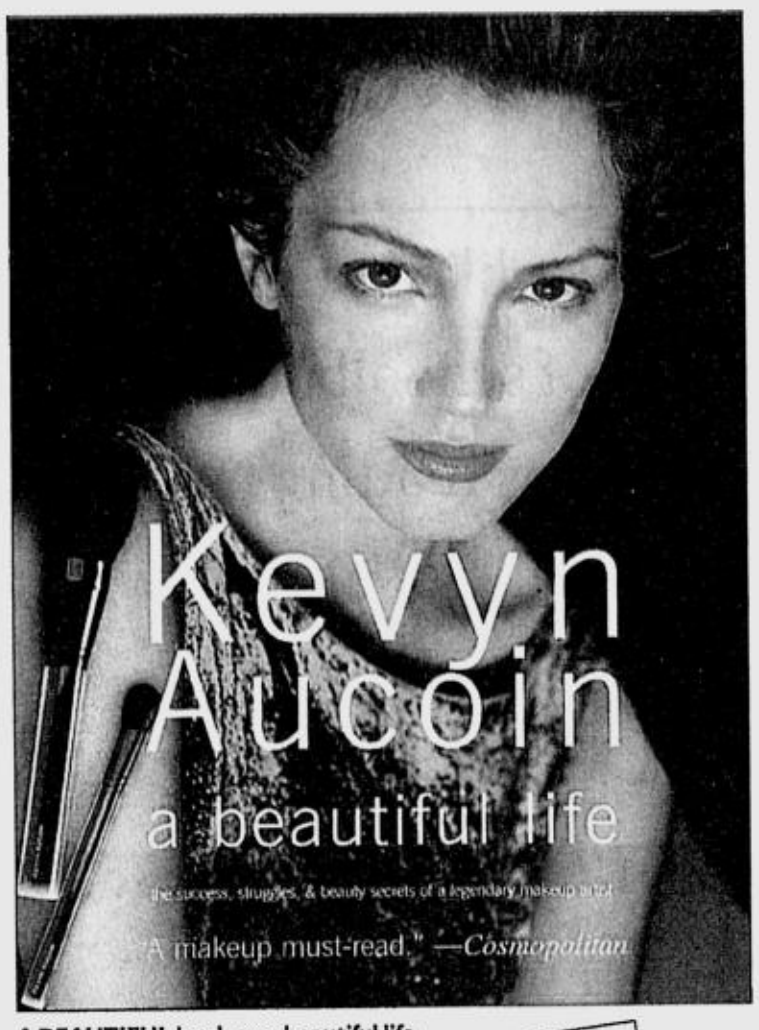
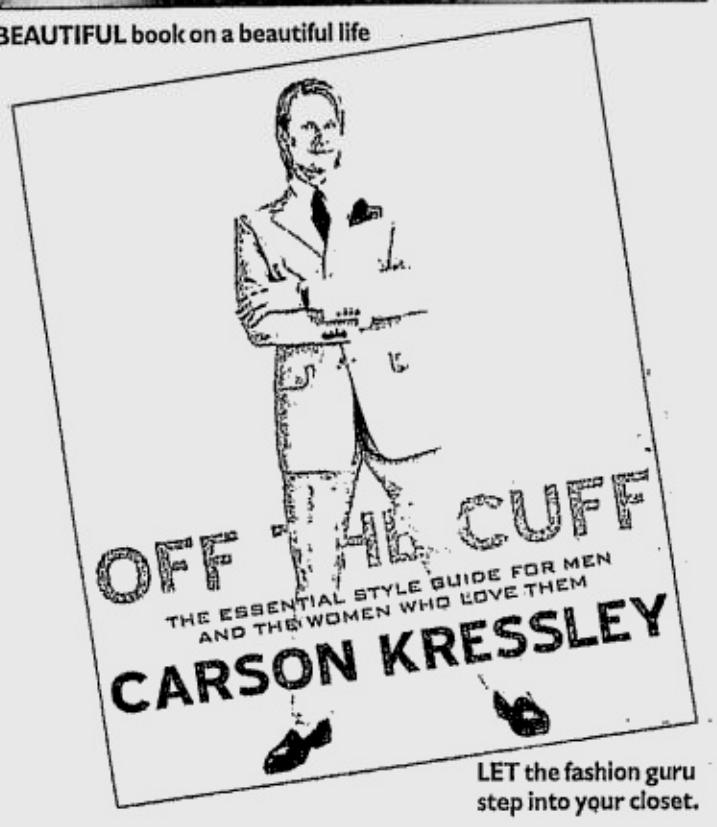
Easy reading for lazy Sundays



A BEAUTIFUL book on a beautiful life



LET the fashion guru step into your closet.

From page J1

tell you what to do."

"Put yourself on your own pedestal, and then everybody else will, too."

"A true heiress is never mean to anyone—except a girl who steals her boyfriend."

"Barbie is my total fashion icon!"

Although some passages will make you roll your eyes, she also expresses a few simple but significant truths.

Yes, there are times when she sounds like she's living in a completely different world (in a lot of ways, she is) and for almost a couple of hundred pages, you can prance around in it, too.

If there's one thing this book can teach you, it's that privileged Ms Paris knows how to poke fun at herself. And in a world where a lot of celebrities take themselves too seriously, that's always a good thing.

Whether you're a Paris fan or you just want more ammunition to make fun of her, whether or not you believe that she really wrote it herself, this book's definitely an entertaining read.

WHAT would you swap your dad for?

Kevyn's gate

Kevyn Aucoin: A Beautiful Life
By Kerry Diamond

This is the story of legendary makeup artist Kevyn Aucoin, as told through the eyes of his friends, family and other people who love him. And what a glorious story it is. It traces Kevyn's captivating journey—how he was given up by his 16-year-old mother and was put up for adoption, his small-town childhood and the years he spent dealing with being ostracized by his peers for being gay, his foray into the fashion and beauty industry, his steady rise to becoming someone considered by many as the most beloved and influential makeup artist of his generation, and even the mysterious sickness that became the reason for his tragic end. Big names in fashion entertainment like Cindy Crawford, Christy Turlington, Naomi Campbell, Janet Jackson, Gwyneth Paltrow, Julia Roberts, Barbra Streisand, Tina Turner and Isabella Rossellini talk about him, his work, his humor, his genius, his heart and his seemingly boundless love for life. Part-biography, part-tribute, part-scrapbook and part-makeup manual, the book is a real celebration of beauty.

Shopaholic and Sister
By Sophie Kinsella

Yes, Becky Bloomwood's back—and this time, as Mrs. Luke Brandon. But just when you thought book number four was going to be about married life, Kinsella injects a new twist—a surprising turn of events. What would happen if it turned out that Becky, who spent her entire life thinking she was an only child, suddenly finds out that she has a sister—and one that's her exact opposite? The result is total chaos. Of course, the shopping sprees and excessive spending are still there—you won't believe her loot from her honeymoon. And just like in the other books, there are times when you'd wish you can dive into the pages, grab the heroine by the shoulders and shake her—but hey, that's Becky Bloomwood for you.

Available at Powerbooks and National Bookstore

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

OH yes, Becky's still at it.

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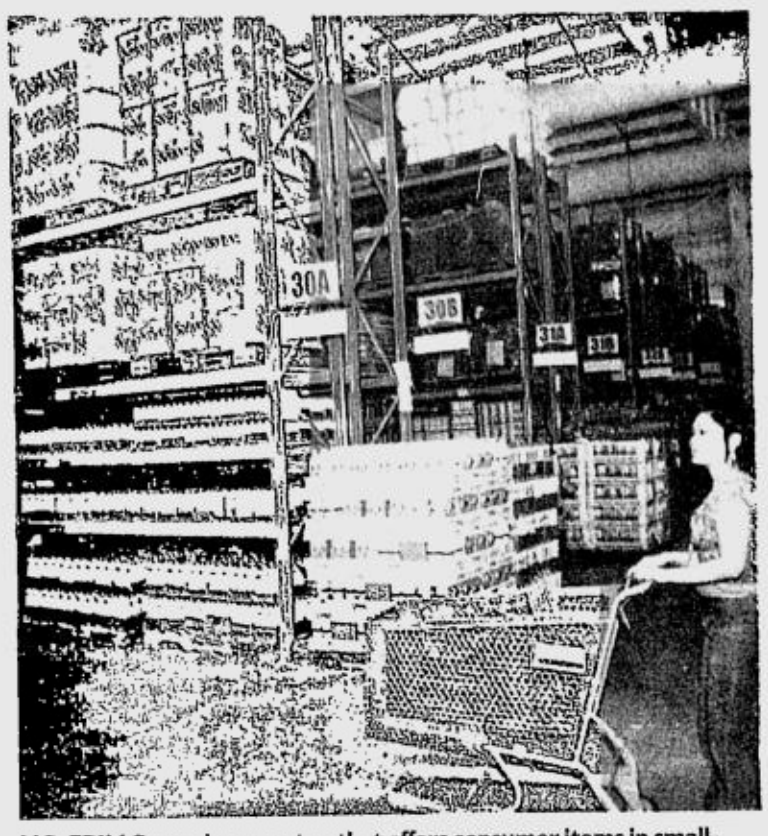
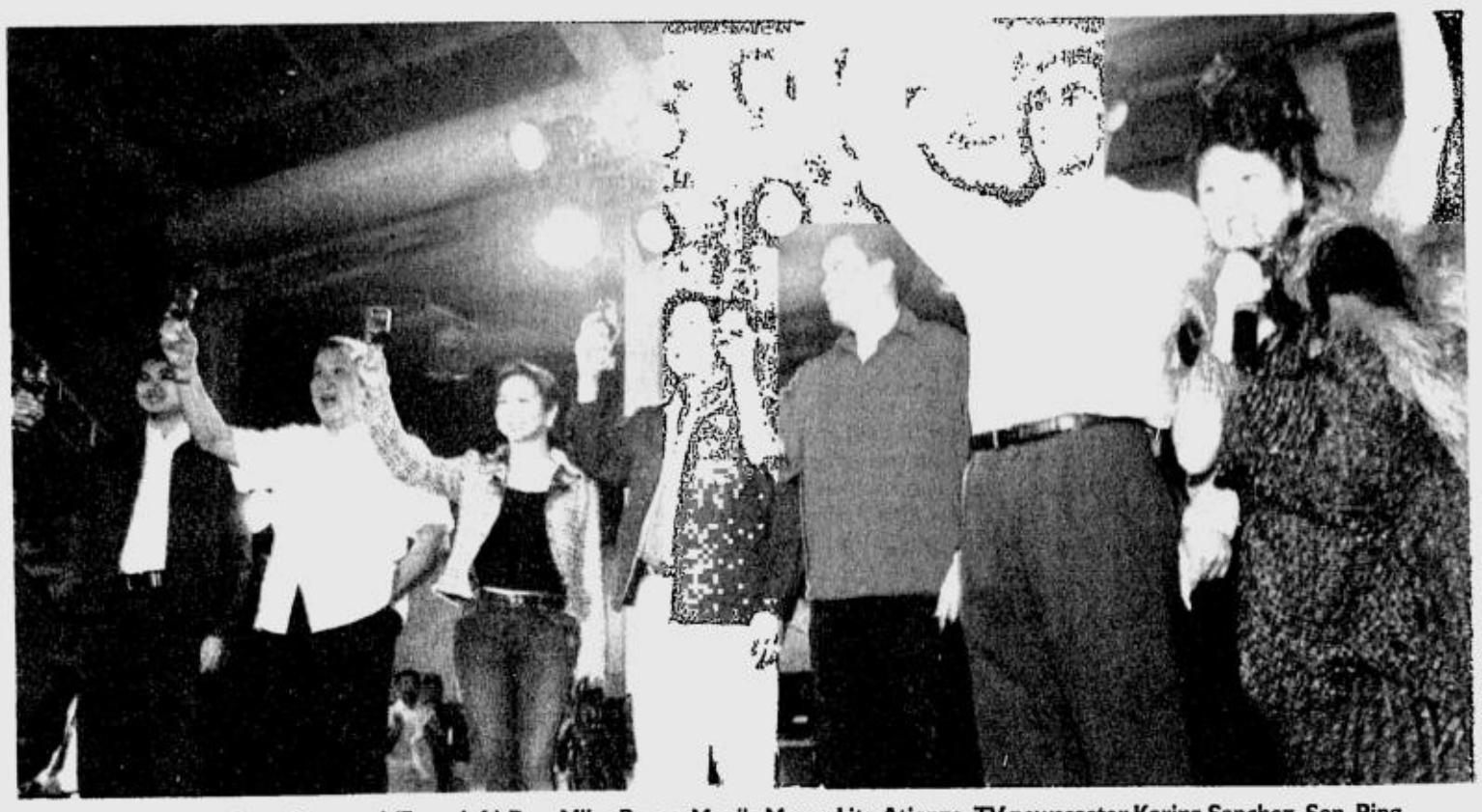


NO-FRILLS warehouse setup that offers consumer items in small-pack sizes, the freshest meats, reduced prices for imported goods—all at no membership fee.



HERE'S to more service at less cost! (From left) Rep. Miles Roces, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, TV newscaster Korina Sanchez, Sen. Ping Lacson, Sen. Mar Roxas, CUL chief operating officer Randy Labrecque and host Tessa Prieto-Valdes

US-style warehouse store in Libis

COST-U-LESS Philippines recently opened along C-5 highway in Libis, Quezon City.

Cost-U-Less (CUL) combines the system of local hypermarkets with the pioneering knowledge, skill and technology of Cost-U-Less Inc. in the United States, to come up with a unique warehouse store concept.

Edmund Ross Tan Thelmo and Randy Labrecque, CUL Philippines president and chief operating officer, respectively, say CUL is all about providing customers exactly what they want and need at the right price.

"That sounds like a cliché, but first-timers in our store will eventually discover we're telling the truth," they say.

CUL shoppers get the best deal in town with the widest selection of goods available and with everything sold at the best value.

The store has a 5,000-sq m shopping space packed with every product a household would need, from rice, noodles and sugar to snacks and a broad spice selection, to shampoo, detergents and pet food. Also available are washing machines, pots, pans, and dish sets, barbecue grids, outdoor furniture and toys.

CUL's secret to a great selection is that it doesn't duplicate items with every possible size and variant available.

"Our format calls for offering the customers multiple brands with selected variants and selected sizes," Labrecque explains. "We may never sell a sachet by itself. Instead we will sell 10-pack sachets in the best-selling variants. At the same time, we will use the expertise of our vendors and buyers to decide the best retail prices to offer our customers. And unlike other warehouse stores which sell items in bulk or huge containers, CUL sells smaller pack sizes, yet the pricing still remains competitive."

CUL's great selection is also made possible by utilizing local vendors. It's a lesson learned from CUL Inc., where success in the US domestic market and in countries like Fiji, and the Netherlands Antilles, St. Maarten, and Curaceo stem from knowing the local market intimately and where to buy locally what that market needs.

"Sourcing vendors means we can really offer our customers a selection where they can find everything they need. And we can do this by having on board a local purchasing staff that has seen the retail business evolve over the last 50 years and a combined purchasing experience of over 70 years. Many have actually trained in the US warehousing format, and they understand how to develop items that are attuned to the local market," says Thelmo.

Putting local products alongside imported goods makes it affordable for CUL to bring the prices down. Plus, it relies on the buying power and strong negotiating skills of its US counterparts, which helps CUL offer a better selection of pricey imported goods at reduced tabs.

Competitive edge

CUL aims to make shopping a fun, clean and exciting experience. It offers only the freshest meats, produce and fish from the local market, Australia and the US, while utilizing innovative cold storage practices to make sure that food-born diseases and bacteria are minimized.

It offers rotisserie chicken, a meals solutions center, a slicing deli, and US and local frozen and deli items. The bakery is developed and baked by industry-leading companies such as Pillsbury and Delifrance. CUL will soon forge a partnership with local experts in the market to offer a coffee shop, US-style food service, fast-food chain and one-hour photo lab.

Another competitive edge of CUL is its no-membership policy, no charge on credit card transactions, and a free loyalty program that is not based on points but on discounting schemes taken off at the register when a loyal customer purchases his goods.

CUL has also developed a system that allows for direct customer feedback. "The system enables us to type in their complaints immediately and provide instant review of their complaint or suggestions at the corporate level," Labrecque explains. Then our staff has 96 hours to input a response, which will either be a placed phone call to the customer or a discussion during his next visit."

COCKTAILS in the midst of a unique warehouse concept that combines the system of local hypermarkets with the technology of the US-based Cost-U-Less group.

PHOTOS: ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

New Casino Español de Cebu opens

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

IT took two years to build the monumental new Casino Español de Cebu, and the time is well worth it.

The casino has basement parking for 200 cars and sports facilities—bowling, gymnasium, tennis, badminton, billiards, basketball court and a huge swimming pool that can double as a reflecting pool with fountain jets.

The regal foyer leads to a covered patio, the fine dining area that is very elegantly furnished, the spacious and cozy "bar mixto" with its fine wine cellar, and a winding staircase that leads to the grand social hall and ample function rooms.

The grand terrace that surrounds the pool is ever crowded with diners, especially on weekends—buffet suppers on Fridays and Saturdays, and brunch on Sundays.

'Dia' in November

A series of openings has occurred. For *Dia de la Hispanidad* in October, the facilities were not complete, so the celebration was moved to November.

It was practically a whole-day affair, including a tour of the premises by all members and families in the afternoon, a Mass officiated at the Cervantes Hall by Msgr. Achilles Dakay, and an informal dinner dance at the social hall, which can accommodate up to 800 people.

Roberto Aboitiz, president of Cebu's Casino Español, warmly welcomed the guests, many of whom came early to get a good table and listen to the Latin music of a very competent group. Bunny Pages, as house chair, was eloquently brief in his remarks, then joined his pretty wife Allen.

Very much present were the rest of the officers—vice president Cheling Sala, with Susan; secretary Rico Gabdionco, treasurer Ben Dapat, sports director Jimmy Escaño and Ellen, and cultural events director Gabby Leyson, who once served as the club's president.

Working behind the scenes and ever so efficiently were the casino's service manager, Rudy Rubi, who has been there for years; and Robert Lilja, chief executive consultant. He comes from Sweden but he has absorbed the Cebuano spirit since he is married to pretty Fatima Pilapil.

Excellent spread

Gema Pido, the casino's food consultant, was quite evident, supervising the buffet table which groaned with specialties. The turkey was to die for, both white and dark meat, and Gema had concocted a special sauce of giblets that was super. The roast beef, which came from Jimmy Escaño's place, was excellent, too.

My father, Don Santiago Picornell, attended the party. He did not want to miss it and, at 92, he is as spry as ever. He has the distinction of being the only person alive who was at the founding meeting of Casino Español de Cebu in January 1920. A child of 8, he was brought there by his father, Don Bartolome Picornell.

A witness to history, he was reminiscing at the table he shared with Vivina Chiu Yrastorza and Fe Sala Villarica. He got up to search for Gema and congratulate her for the stupendous *croquetas de bacalao*. Gema responded, "I'll send you another plateful."

"Isn't the music too loud?" My father asked, as a band took its place on a dais and started dishing out dance music. It was getting too retro, until someone stood up and whispered to the band leader to shift to disco music. Though it became even louder, the dance floor became packed, and oh what fun it was.

Tessie Javier could have vied for the title of dancing queen. Lisette Garcia, too. The jumpiest pair was Angel and Josephine Ocubillo, who could do the most jitterbuggy boogie-woogie ever.

Joe and Chinggay Utzurrum sat out the dance numbers but a lot of people seemed to gravitate toward them. Joe represents Allied Metals in Cebu, and they had done a great job of supplying stainless steel kitchen equipment. Without them, all that fine food would not have been possible.

ELLEN and Jimmy Escaño

CASINO Español VP Cheling Sala with wife Susan Montenegro Sala and Honey Loop

GEMA Pido, Casino Español de Cebu's food consultant

MANOLING Sainz

Fund-raiser, inaugural

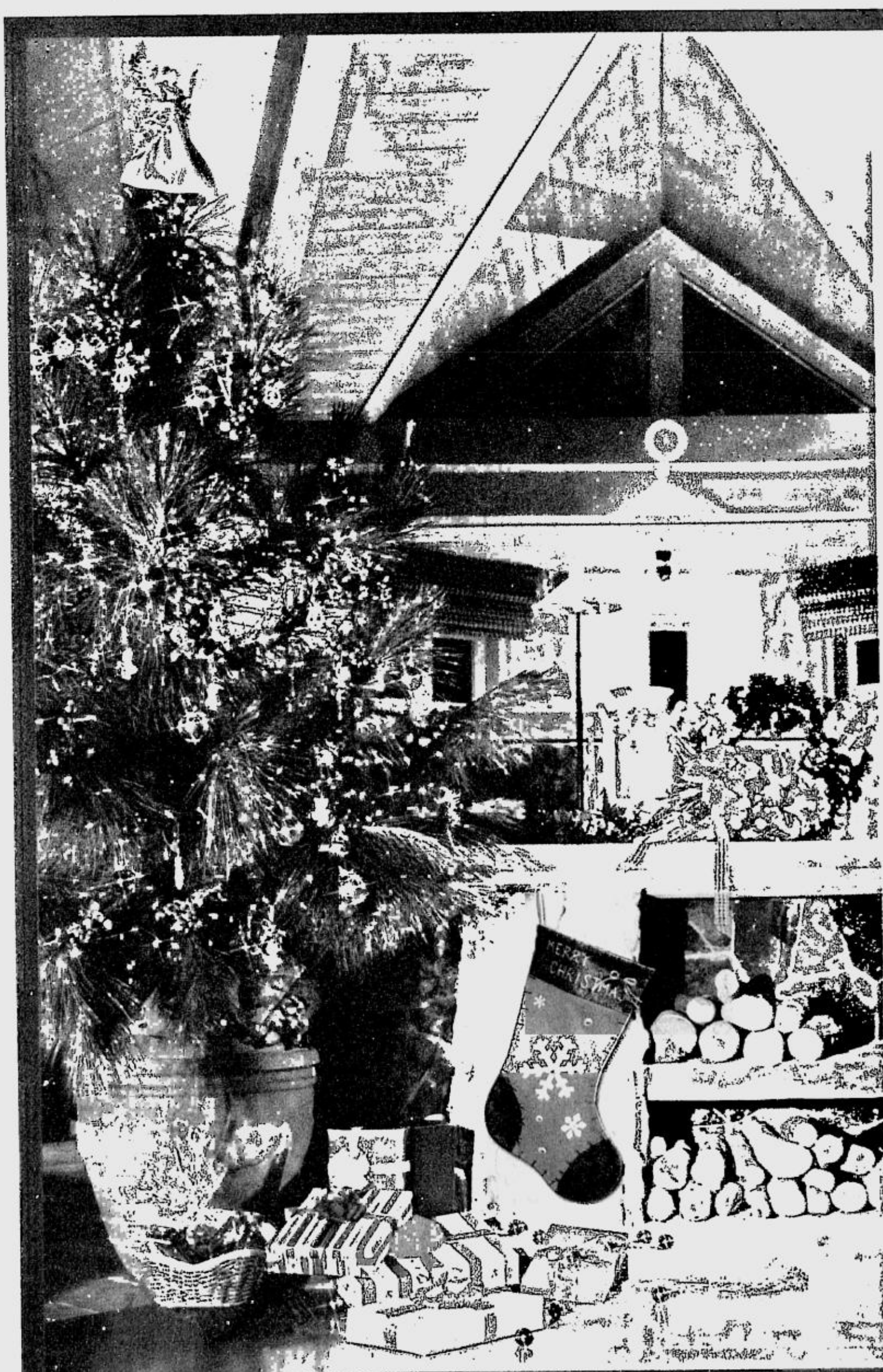
More activities are scheduled at the Casino Español. As we write this, the Pilita Corrales show is about to take place at the grand ballroom to raise funds for the St. Joseph Foundation. She is also donating her talent fee to the foundation.

On Dec. 11, the traditional *Cestas de Navidad* raffle will be held. A large crowd is expected. Prizes are lots of Christmas baskets filled with goodies. Door prizes are only for those present.

A formal ball will be held on Dec. 31 for the grand inaugural of the club. In years past, the New Year's Eve ball was a costume party with prizes for the best getup.

Amparito Lhuillier has been adamant about changing that, at least for this year. She and Michel are expecting all their children to be here—Yvette from Paris with husband Franck Warnod and their son; the famous Monique from Beverly Hills with husband Tom Bugbee; Charles and Joanna with their brood from Manila. Michael and Joanna live in Cebu with their three sons.

RICO Gandionco



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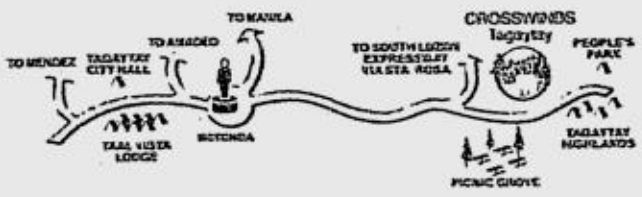

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DON Bosco Technical Institute vocational students get firsthand experience in the school's e-Learning instructional method. Showing them how this computer-aided system works are: (standing, from left) Fr. Gregorio Bicomomg Jr., Don Bosco Provincial Economer, and Sang Youl Eom, president and CEO of Samsung Electronics Philippines.

Wiring the world's youth

Samsung's DigitAll Hope project seeks to give young people across Asia greater access to new technology

By Rowena C. Burgos

ENSURING that all young people have equal access to information technology is an increasingly important issue for the future development of the Asia-Pacific region.

This is why Samsung launched DigitAll Hope last year in eight Asian countries—Australia, Singapore, India, Thailand,. Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines. The program is part of Samsung's commitment to give back to the countries in which it operates.

Youth are the focus because those aged 15-24 represent such a large segment of the overall population in the region at almost 20 percent.

"This region has given the company such great success, and the youth here, with so many ambitions, dreams and aspirations, should be given the chance to achieve greatness," says Angeline Limbaco, marketing manager.

What makes DigitAll Hope a pivotal project is the size of the grant money ($66,000 to the two Philippine winners alone); its regional focus on an area where using information technology to fill a development gap will remain a key issue; and the theme of youth, whose lives will be improved through the use of information technology.

"Youth represent a significant portion of Asia's population and will be the driving engine in leading the way for social and economic development into the future. Today's youth have grown up in the age of technology and many have benefited from this progress. However, there are many who have fallen behind in the information age. Samsung strongly believes in supporting programs that increase innovative use of technology to bring services such as education to more people and build personal development and aspirations," explains Bam Aquino, National Youth Commission chair and member of the local judging committee.

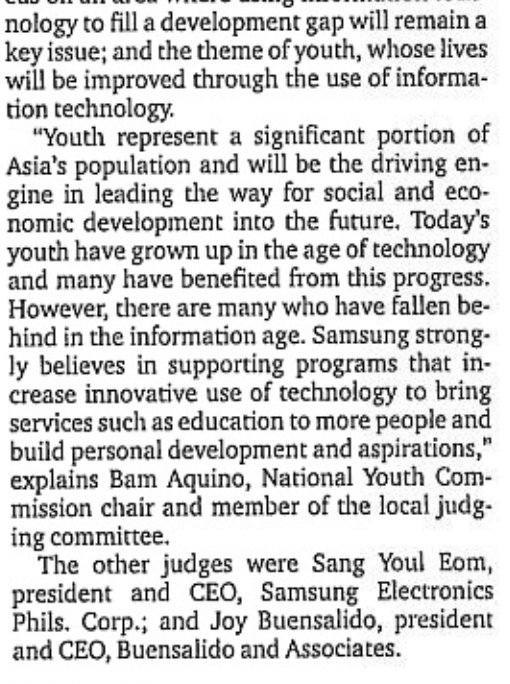
The other judges were Sang Youl Eom, president and CEO, Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp.; and Joy Buensalido, president and CEO, Buensalido and Associates.

2004 winners

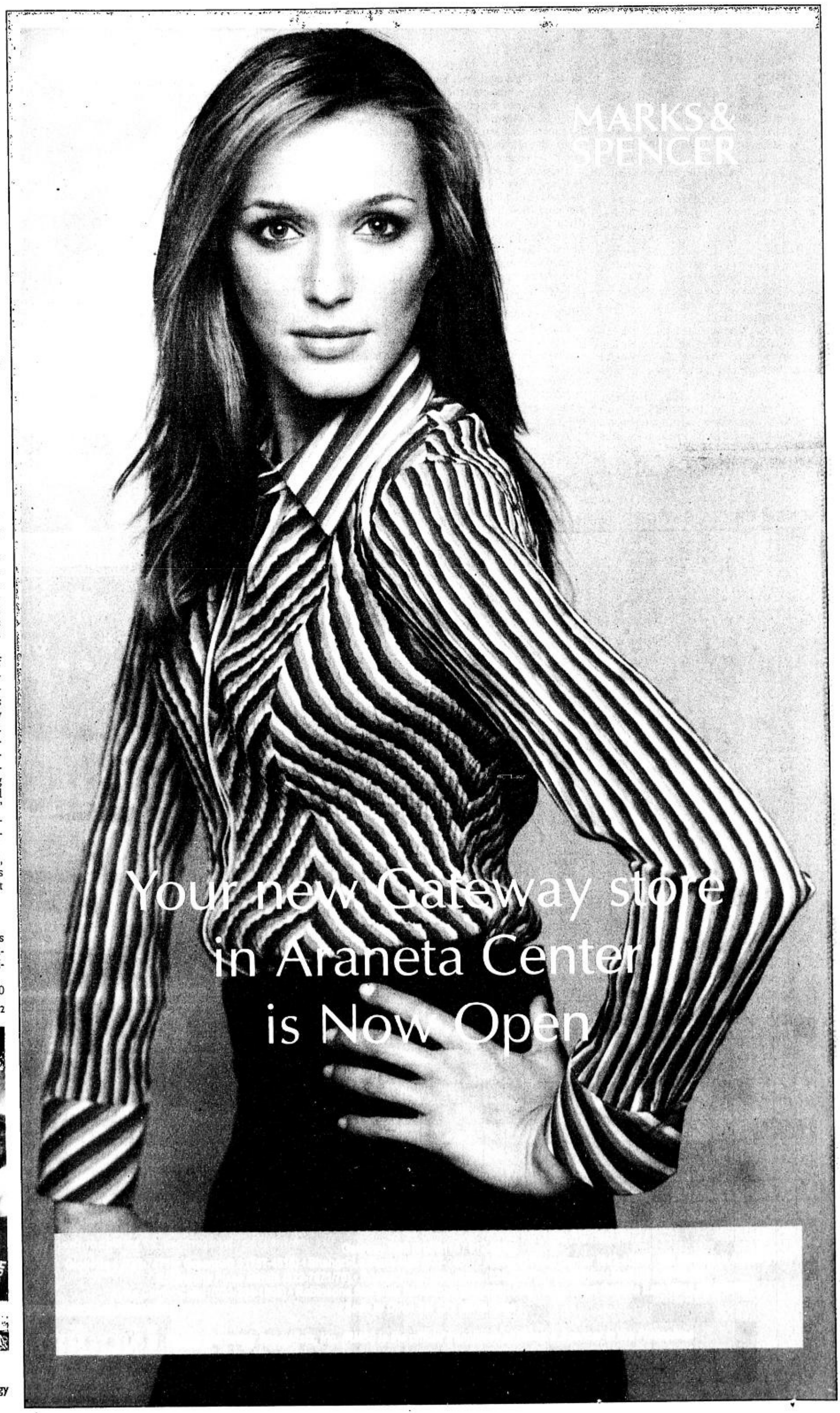
The Salesians of St. John Bosco Philippines and Altiora Quaero Foundation were adjudged the country's most deserving recipients of the 2004 DigitAll Hope grant.

These organizations will share the $66,000

WIRING/ K2



THE SAMSUNG E-Learning Center in Don Bosco Schools offers 1½-year manpower skills training programs in various technology trades.



THE ALTIORA Quaero Foundation in Negros

SANG Youl Eom, Samsung president and CEO, with Unesco secretary general, Ambassador Preciosa Soliven, executive director Robert Alaban, Altiora Quaero Foundation treasurer Rene Talve, and National Youth Commission president/CEO Bambam Aquino

Wiring the world's youth

From page K1

monetary and product grant to fund their respective technology-based projects that seek to enrich communities and the lives of young people in the country.

Don Bosco's winning proposal is entitled "Institutionalizing the Use of E-Learning for Out-of-School Training for Better Effectivity with Cost Efficiency in the Philippines." The project was an offshoot of its Samsung e-Lab project, which also clinched the DigitAll Hope grant in 2003 and received $45,000 in funding.

The new project will expand the e-learning system implemented by Samsung e-Lab to reach more out-of-school youth (OSY) in the country. The organization will implement this by creating a network of learning centers for this marginalized sector.

The Altiora Quaero Foundation in Negros Occidental has "Juvenile Undertakings in Sustainable Farming Through Alternative Resource Management and Information Technology."

The endeavor seeks to build a training center and demonstration farm in rural areas that will make techno-savvy agri-entrepreneurs out of OSYs. This will be implemented through IT materials and hands-on apprenticeship in sustainable agriculture.

This year saw a total of 300 grant applications from Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Out of the 300, only 31 projects were chosen by a regional judging panel.

The panel of judges included Ambassador Preciosa Soliven of Unesco-Phils.; Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister of State, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Trade and Industry for Singapore; Dr. Pairash Thajchayapong, president, National Science and Technology Development Agency of Thailand; and Dr. H. Arief Rachman, executive chair of Indonesian Counsel for Unesco.

Corporate care

Since 1995, Samsung Electronics has been involved in environmental preservation, promotion of the information age, education and projects for the physically handicapped. In the Asia region, Samsung is actively engaged in many local community and sports programs, spending over $1.5 million in 2002 for the eight involved countries.

In its two years of existence, Samsung DigitAll Hope has awarded $1.15 million in grants to organizations supporting the use of technology to improve young lives and helping to bridge the digital divide.

According to a 2002 International Telecommunication Union study, the digital divide is an issue raised by the UN Global Compact as a focus area for development in Asia, affecting youth that make up nearly 20 percent of the region's population, with implications for some 400 million people with disabilities living in the Asia-Pacific region.

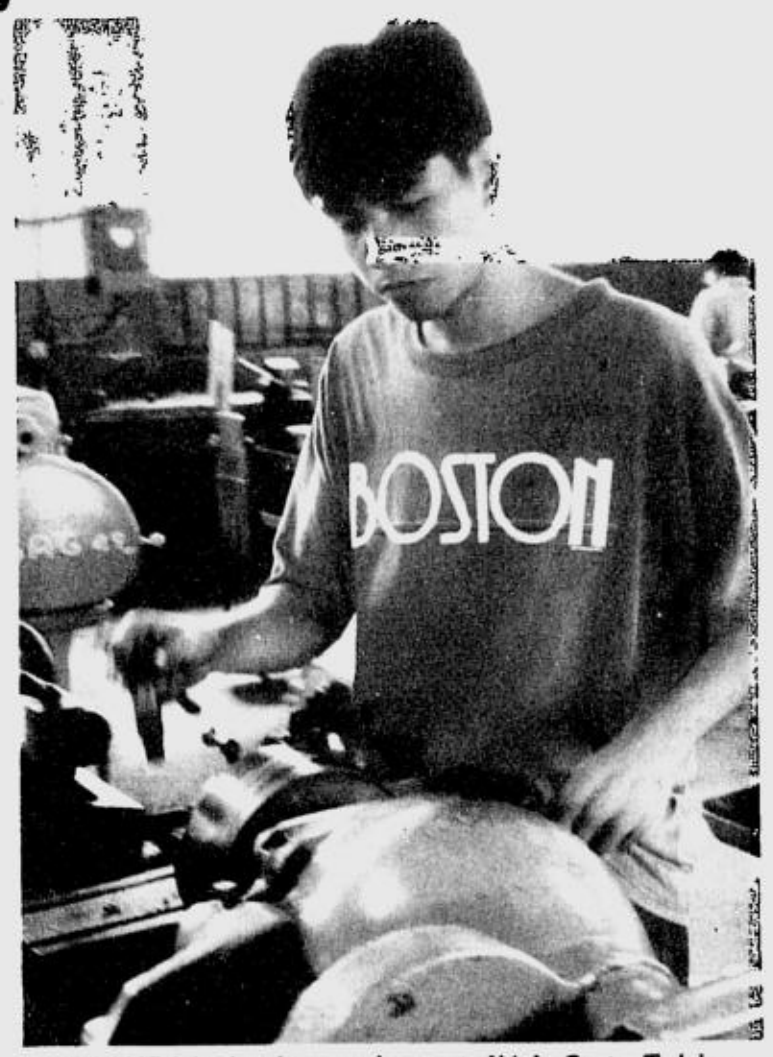
The study also said that only about 5.5 percent of Asians are Internet users as compared to 24.2 percent in the United States and 20.79 percent in Europe. Also, only about 4 percent of Asians own PCs as compared to 27.5 percent in the US and 20 percent in Europe.

This relatively low level of IT use and penetration rate places these countries at a disadvantage in a rapidly networked world.

A study by the Centre for International Development on the readiness of a community to join the networked world found 4 out of the 7 countries involved in the Samsung DigitAll Hope program ranked in the lower half of a total of 75 countries.

"This is why ensuring that the youth have access to the skills and tools that will enable them to compete in the global digital world has been a focus area for Samsung's DigitAll Hope," says Limbaco.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph.



A STUDENT doing hands-on work as part of his In-Center Training

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **SOLUTION**

ACROSS
1 Use a shovel
4 Cow's mate
8 Ravi Shankar, e.g.
16 "Cheers" bartender
19 Square foot, e.g.
21 "The Story of Adele H." star Adjani
22 Devoured
23 Start of a riddle
25 Beige
26 Like a pool table's surface
27 Swings around
28 Dens
30 Like ice skates and razors
31 Guide
32 Riddle, part 2
35 Less refined
36 Praise
37 Grassy plain
39 Tikkanen of hockey
40 Fine spray
41 BLT spread
42 Nukes
46 Riddle, part 3
52 Novelist Cather
53 Very, to Verdi
54 Shade
55 One who lives near Rome
58 Colloquial matriarch
61 Start of a tryster's note
64 Roaming at large
65 Years of note
66 Riddle, part 4
70 Bon — (witty remark)
71 Opening for breathing
73 Frightens
74 Hersey's "A Bell For —"
76 Signature validators
78 Tina Turner's ex
79 Abu — (Arabian sheikdom)
82 Verdugo of film
83 Riddle, part 5
89 Tear to bits
90 In — of
92 Like a moray
93 "— pro nobis"
94 They make their points
97 What to call a lady
98 French cubist Fernand
100 End of the riddle
103 Light bender
105 Price-fixing group
106 Port-au-Prince locale
107 Africa's Sierra —
108 Golden brown
109 Roadie's tote
110 Riddle's answer
116 GWB's party
117 Tick or flea, e.g.
118 Disproved
119 Hullabaloo
120 Allergist's diagnostic procedure
121 Pre-1991 superpower
122 Orca's home

DOWN
1 "But of course!"
2 Very shortly
3 Reveal
4 Good-natured joking
5 Prodded
6 Direct
7 Reaction room
8 Moved crabwise
9 Publish
10 Reduces gradually
11 Lincoln and Burrows
12 Reunion mem.
13 Sick
14 — -mo
15 Cookware coating
16 Attended as a visitor
17 Asteroids producer
18 The brainy bunch?
20 Mark over some Spanish letters
24 Clever
29 Incredible
30 Cold one
31 Wasabi-dipped fish
32 One of Donald's exes
33 "No" vote
34 — -Cone
36 — fire under (roused to action)
38 "Today I — man"
40 G.P.'s, e.g.
43 Nissan model
44 Anticipate
45 Serenaded
47 Flow stopper
48 Dancer Duncan
49 Biker's stunt
50 Scene not included in the final version
51 Big audio-tape brand
52 Pretender
56 "Uno" plus "due"
57 "7 Faces of Dr. —" (Tony Randall film)
58 More cruel
59 Baltimore bird
60 Weasel's relative
62 Self-help author LeShan
63 North Dakota's tree
67 — Lilly and Company
68 OK grade
69 The Everly Brothers' "All I Have to Do —"
72 Telephone unit
75 Run out of juice
77 Spirited mount
80 Pilot's post
81 Singer Grant
84 "Ben- —"
85 Prickly plant
86 Canine paces
87 Payment to use a golf course
88 Nobleman
90 Arcing shot
91 Rage
95 Potato chips, to a Brit
96 Coined money
97 Slow, stately dance
98 Tony Blair's party
99 Spew lava
100 Butler's love
101 Renowned
102 River giant
104 Origins
105 Parking places
107 For fear that
108 Fruity quaffs
111 Adult acorn?
112 — Lanka
113 Solo of "Star Wars"
114 R&B's — Hill
115 Cosmetic safety org.

answer on page D3

Can he hope for a fairy-tale ending?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR Emily,

I am 27 years old. My problem is I have fallen in love with Jane, my officemate. There should not be any trouble there, but we are as different as day and night. She is either a secretary or a computer engineer and I am only a janitor.

I fell in love with her the very first time I saw her and I have not been able to get her out of my mind. She takes my breath away every time I see her.

Once I couldn't stop staring at her and she accidentally looked at me. I felt instinctively that she liked me, too. But I can be wrong.

I heard around the office that she is being courted by two guys who are professionals, and that made me truly sad. How can I compete with them?

I don't think I am a complete loser. I worked abroad for two years as an OFW to save money and make my dreams come true. In my spare time I write songs and hope to be a professional composer someday. I'm told that if I weren't so thin, I wouldn't look so bad.

I plan to send her roses anonymously. I am so in love with her, I'd marry her tomorrow if only I were a rich man. Should I pursue her? I've heard of fairy tales, but do you think I have a chance with her?

MR. SHY GUY

In the context of fairy tales, the princess kisses the frog and transforms him into a prince, right? Or were you imagining yourself as Cinder-fella?

Remember we're living in a real world. Being crazy in love is not enough to win anybody, however intense your feelings may be. Love is wonderful—no quarrel there. Let's even imagine that Jane falls for you—warts and all.

But after the frenzy of loving subsides and the two of you come down to earth again, what next?

To become a "prince" depends on how well you handle yourself. You cannot live on love alone. You call yourself only a janitor—so what are you doing for your future? Were you able to invest your OFW money wisely? Do you have a business on the side? If not, are you a working student?

In the wild, the female of the species always chooses the strongest male to mate with her. This assures her that her offspring will be able to survive and carry only good genes.

You may have all these dreams in the back of your mind, but are you doing something to impress your Jane that you are more than what she sees now?

Walk your talk and you'll not feel so inferior to court anybody ever—including Jane.

Haunted by the past

I am 30 years old and my problem is about my wife's past. She was engaged to someone long before I met her and she had sexual relations with her then fiancé.

We've been married four years now, but I still cannot forget and forgive what they did when they were lovers. I have no right to get jealous or angry since I didn't know her then, but I can't help myself.

She told me everything about her past before we got married and I have no reason to question her fidelity, but still I am so unsure of her.

Can you help me with this festering feeling?

OVERMAN

Why did you marry her if you cannot get her past out of your mind? Were you a virgin yourself when you got married?

Besides her "bad" past, what is it that is bothering you? Or is it just the sex part that is driving you crazy? Is she a horrible wife? Does she flirt when the two of you go out? Has she uttered her former boyfriend's name in her sleep ever?

If your answer to all these is a resounding "No," I suggest you take a slow, long and hard look at your own self and see if you are even worth living with for the rest of her life.

Remember that you are messing up your marriage with your insane jealousy—unnecessarily! There's more to life than a "bad" past. Grow up!

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM

Rosa Mistica and the hour of grace

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Our Lady of Rosa Mistica (or Mystical Rose), on her seventh apparition in 1947, told the people gathered in the Basilica in Montichiari, Italy that she wanted to be honored at noon on Dec. 8 of every year and that the "hour of grace for the world" be celebrated. She said many divine graces would be received through this devotion.

"Our Lord, my Divine Son Jesus, will send His overflowing mercy, if good people will pray continuously for their sinful brother.

"One should very soon notify the Holy Father of the Church, Pope Pius XII, that it is my wish that the Hour of Grace for the World be made known and spread throughout the world. If anyone is unable to visit his church, yet will pray at noon at home, he will also receive graces through me. Whoever prays on these tiles and weeps tears of penance, will find a secure heavenly ladder and receive protection and grace through my motherly heart.

"This Hour of Grace will produce great and numerous conversions. Hardened and cold hearts resembling this marble will be touched by divine Grace, and they will become faithful to Our Lord in loyal love."

First apparition

In the spring of 1947, nurse Pierina Gilli had an unforgettable experience as she prayed in the chapel of a Montichiari hospital. Mary appeared to her in a wonderful vision and magnificent light. She was dressed in mauve, very sad, with tears in her eyes. Pierina noticed that three swords pierced her heart.

The first sword meant the unworthy celebration of Holy Mass and unworthily received Communion. The second sword was being unfaithful to, and giving up, the vocation as a priest or a religious while the third was betrayal of the Faith. Our Lady's only words were to ask for prayer, sacrifice and penance.

During the second apparition, Pierina asked our Lady who she was and received this reply:

"I am the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of all of you. Our Lord sends me to bring a new Marian Devotion to all religious orders and institutes, male and female, and to the priests of this world. I promise to protect those religious orders and institutes who will venerate me in this special way, increase their vocations, and achieve a greater striving for saintliness among the servants of God."

ROSA Mistica, or Our Lady of the Mystical Rose, appeared to a nurse in Montichieri, Italy.

There were five more apparitions and on Dec. 7, 1947 Our Lady promised to show her heart.

Much later, Pierina interpreted the title "Mystical Rose" as "Mary being the master teacher of the innermost, mystical life and the Mother of the mystical body of Christ." In other words: she is the mother of the church.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI confirmed the interpretation of Pierina as true and declared that the title "Rosa Mistica" be accorded Our Lady.

Montichiari is now a place of pilgrimage. My friends Robert and Ruby Puckett were there on Dec. 8 last year and venerated the Rosa Mistica in her altar.

Pilgrim Fatima

The international pilgrim image of Our Lady of Fatima is, as of this writing, in the Diocese of Malolos. She will be at the Carmel of the Holy Child Parish in Angeles City Dec. 6-7 then the Diocese of Tarlac until Dec. 28.

She will be at the Diocese of Novaliches Dec. 28-29 then the Diocese of Bataan, the Holy Rosary Church in Orani, Dec. 30-Jan. 1.

This column will update you on the schedule of the pilgrim image which was blessed in 1947 by the Bishop of Leiria in Fatima, Portugal. Fr. Melvin Castro, secretary of Tarlac Bishop Cinenze and director of Radio Maria Philippines, is Philippine coordinator. Call (045) 9821938.

50th anniversary

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Antipolo celebrates its 50th anniversary on Dec. 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception. Novena Masses are ongoing until Dec. 7. Four deacons were ordained priests in November. The Sacred Ministry staged a concert last Dec. 3.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales will bless the new altar at 5 p.m. today while Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco will preside over the reenactment of the canonical coronation of the Virgin at 9 a.m., Dec. 8. He will be assisted by Antipolo Bishop Gabriel Reyes.

Bishop Teodoro Bacani will be the Advent recollection master at 7 p.m., Dec. 14, inside the church.

Msgr. Rigoberto de Guzman wrote to say: "We celebrate even in times of hardships for God's gift of the Eucharist and His Mother who ceaselessly guides us in our journey."

Our Lady of Makati

Nuestra Señora de la Rosa de Makati (Our Lady of Makati) will join the grand Marian procession for the first time at 4 p.m., Dec. 5. The image's participation was made possible by Msgr. Antonio Unson and Fr. Jay Bautista and the pastoral council.

The old image was brought to the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul by Fr. P. Delgado, SJ, in 1718 as a gift to Marian devotees in the parish.

Golden jubilee

Taal will mark the Golden Jubilee of the canonical coronation of Our Lady of Caysasay by Cardinal Quiroga on Dec. 8, 1954.

Festivities will start with Masses every hour 4-9:30 a.m., Dec. 8, at the Our Lady of Caysasay Shrine. A Mass at 3 p.m. precedes the fluvial parade that will start from the shrine followed by the procession to St. Martin de Tours Basilica with the usual *luwa*, a poem sung to the Virgin. Fr. Carlo Magno is the Rector of the Shrine.

The following day, coronation rites will start at 9 a.m. Luwa will be conducted by Mikee Villano. It will be followed by the concelebrated Mass of Archbishop Ramon Arguelles, with Bishops Salvador Quizon, Ruben Profugo, and Buenaventura Famadico, and other priests as co-celebrants.

The Taal Fiesta Committee is chaired by *hermano*, Dr. Ernesto C. Noche. Vice-chairs are Delia Lota and Gilda Banaag Mitra. Advisers are Bishop Salvador Quizon, Father Bong Panganiban, Fr. Ricky Echague, Fr. Randy Sudario, Mayor Librado Cabrera and Fe Cabrera.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Grand Master in the making

10-year-old Marc Christian Nazario has become a much-respected chess champ despite his hearing disability

By Anne A. Jambora

WHEN Marc Christian Nazario, a mere 8 years old then, pleaded for a brand-new chess set two years ago, his father Uly was puzzled and surprised.

Although his parents have always been supportive of youngest son Marc's interests and hobbies, their home-schooled child had no friends—and playmates—from whom he might have learned the board game.

And there was, in fact, a chess set at home, a remnant of the old man's love for the sport in his youth. The old set, with its lackluster checkered board in black and white, was gathering dust in one corner, many of its pieces already lost.

Years had passed since Uly last picked up a pawn. But with renewed enthusiasm, he eagerly indulged his son.

Hearing impairment

How did Marc learn of a game called chess? His two brothers were over 10 years older than him, and he knew practically no one outside of his family, for one reason: He has bilateral atresia, a hearing impairment caused by the absence of ear canals.

Looking after their son's interests, the overly protective parents had chosen to withdraw Marc from "normal" society for fear that he might be taunted and ridiculed by insensitive children. And so Marc learned to entertain himself, losing himself in books and computer games until he accidentally discovered a chess program in his mother Cynthia's Palm Pilot.

"Inaral ko po 'yung mga piyesa at 'yung mga movements *nila* sa Palm Pilot," Marc says now.

When Marc began beating his dad in chess—which he did in just a few sessions—he teasingly declared he had always won over the PDA's program. Turned out Marc played on a two-player mode, playing for both, so it was inevitable for him to "win" each game.

The boy was simply too happy to be playing with a real person for the first time.

But happiness was short-lived. A few days after father and son had taken up the game, Marc's dad had to leave for a two-month out-of-town assignment. So Marc again began playing chess on his own until weeks later, when his family was in Greenhills.

His mother chanced upon a group of young boys playing chess. As fate would have it, it was the Milo Chess Clinic.

Marc's excited mother immediately asked him if he wanted to join the class. But her son's blasé, noncommittal reply didn't discourage Cynthia. She knew her son was hesitant to be surrounded by kids his age and unfamiliar adults, since he was accustomed to mingling and interacting only with his family and their intimate friends.

Cynthia enrolled Marc anyway, and since then this boy's life has changed dramatically.

More than medals

During his first year of joining chess tournaments alone, local and international, Marc has reaped medals and awards—gold, silver and bronze—and has earned the respect of his peers.

He joined the Shell Active in Bacolod, Lucena and NCR, Metropolitan Chess Club, Codinera, Café Lupe, Mandaluyong Chess Club, La Union Open, GMA Cavite, Laguna Chess Club, and more.

His first international tourney was during the 4th Asean Age-Group Chess Championship in Brunei last year, where his team took home the bronze. Last September, Marc won four medals—one gold, two silvers, one bronze—at the 5th Asean Age-Group Chess Championship in Vietnam.

But more than the medals and adulations, Marc has found his place in this world, regained his self-confidence and learned to look beyond his disability.

"Marc is a boy transformed. The socialization, sportsmanship, communication skills and patience he has developed are worth much more than any medal or certificate," Cynthia says.

Now 10 years old, Marc is, for the first time, enrolled in a regular school, where he has recently been accelerated to a higher level. Excelling in Math, Language and Music, his favorite subjects, Marc is also in the honor roll of his class.

More importantly, he has friends, nearly all of them now also chess enthusiasts—thanks to Marc who gladly made converts out of them. Even his family's weekend activities

GRAND/ L4

ON HIS favorite piece, the King: "*'Yun ang leader na dinidipensa mo kaya sa huli 'yun ang natitirang nakatayo.*"

RAFFY LERMA

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*Computed based on the Petron XCS Plus rate of Php 28.00 per liter and the average motorist's consumption of 40 liters per week. See flyers for details. Membership fee is FREE for the first year. Visit any participating Petron station, BPI branch, BPI Family Bank branch, Express Banking Center or www.bpiexpressonline.com. Promo is from Oct. 21, 2004 - April 30, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2521, Series of 2004.

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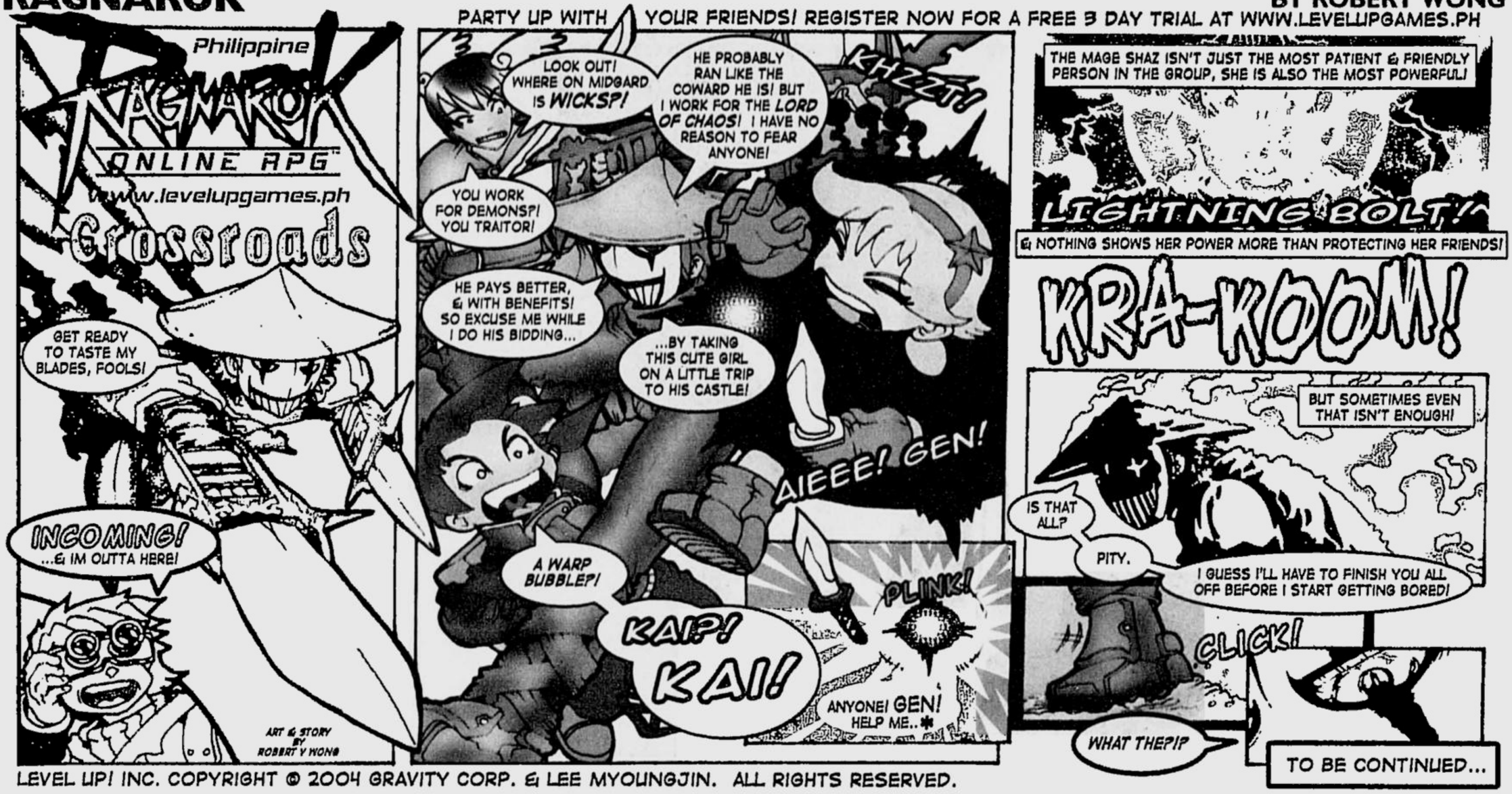
INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

DECEMBER 5, 2004

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

RAGNAROK

BY ROBERT WONG



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PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

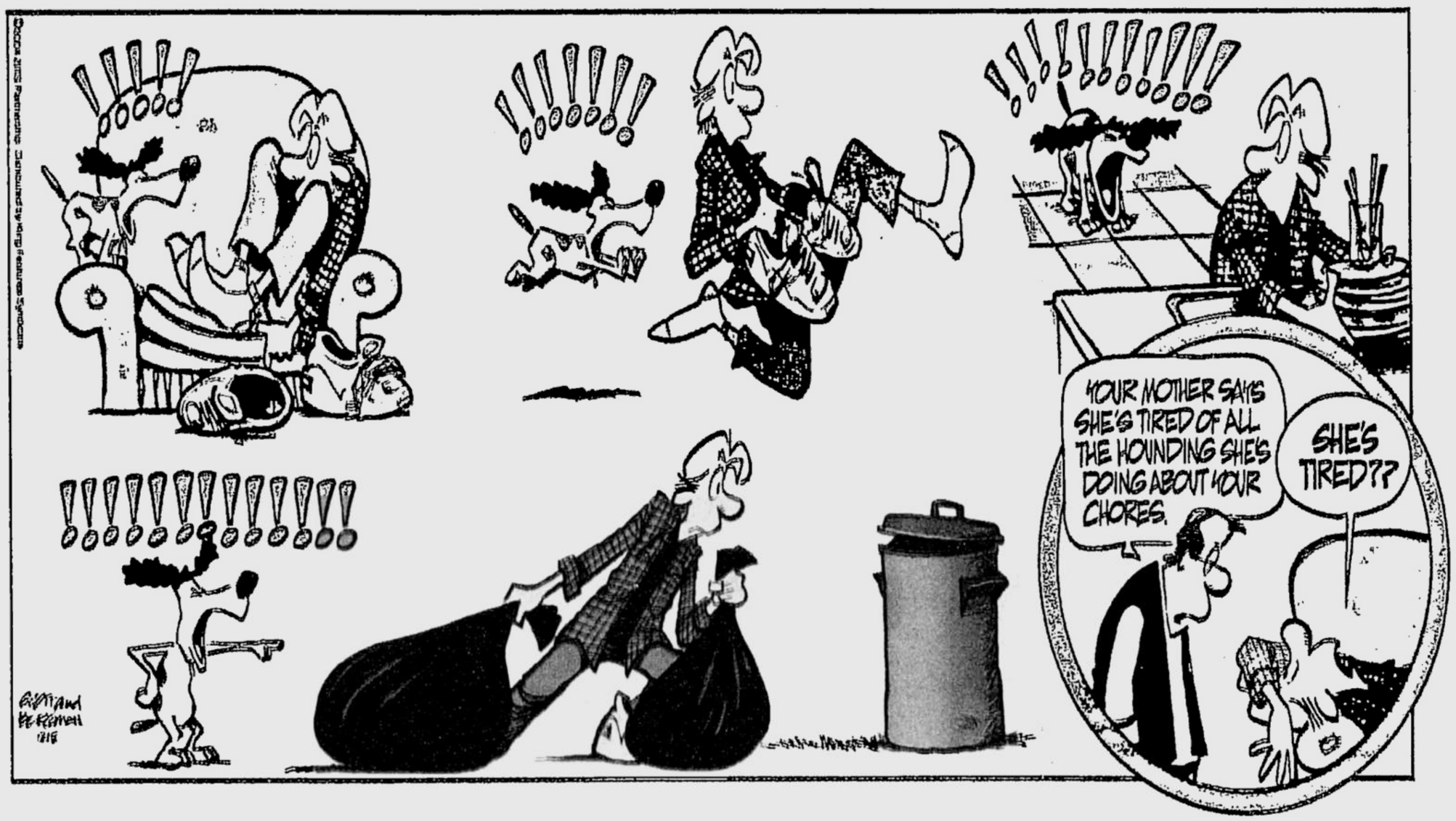
C. FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO MIDGARD

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



Read the Inquirer Comics Sunday and get a chance to win weekly prizes from Ragnarok, Filbars and Fully Booked or a PC in the Grand Draw! Text INQVOTE to 291 (SMART) and 2949 (Globe) now!*

Congratulations to last week's winners: 1) **Rene J. Novisteros, North Cotabato, 2) Andrew Joseph Salanguit, Las Pinas City, 3) Rey C. Campued, Gen. San.**

Congratulations to this week's winners: 1) **Godfrey Dungo, Bacoor, Cavite, 2) Carmelita Ragay Vengco, Manila, 3) Gladiola Eje, Batangas City**

To claim your prizes, please call (02)897-8808 loc. 352. Look for Mr. Dennis Leung

*SEE PROMO PRINT ADS FOR DETAILS

INDAY WANDA

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DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS

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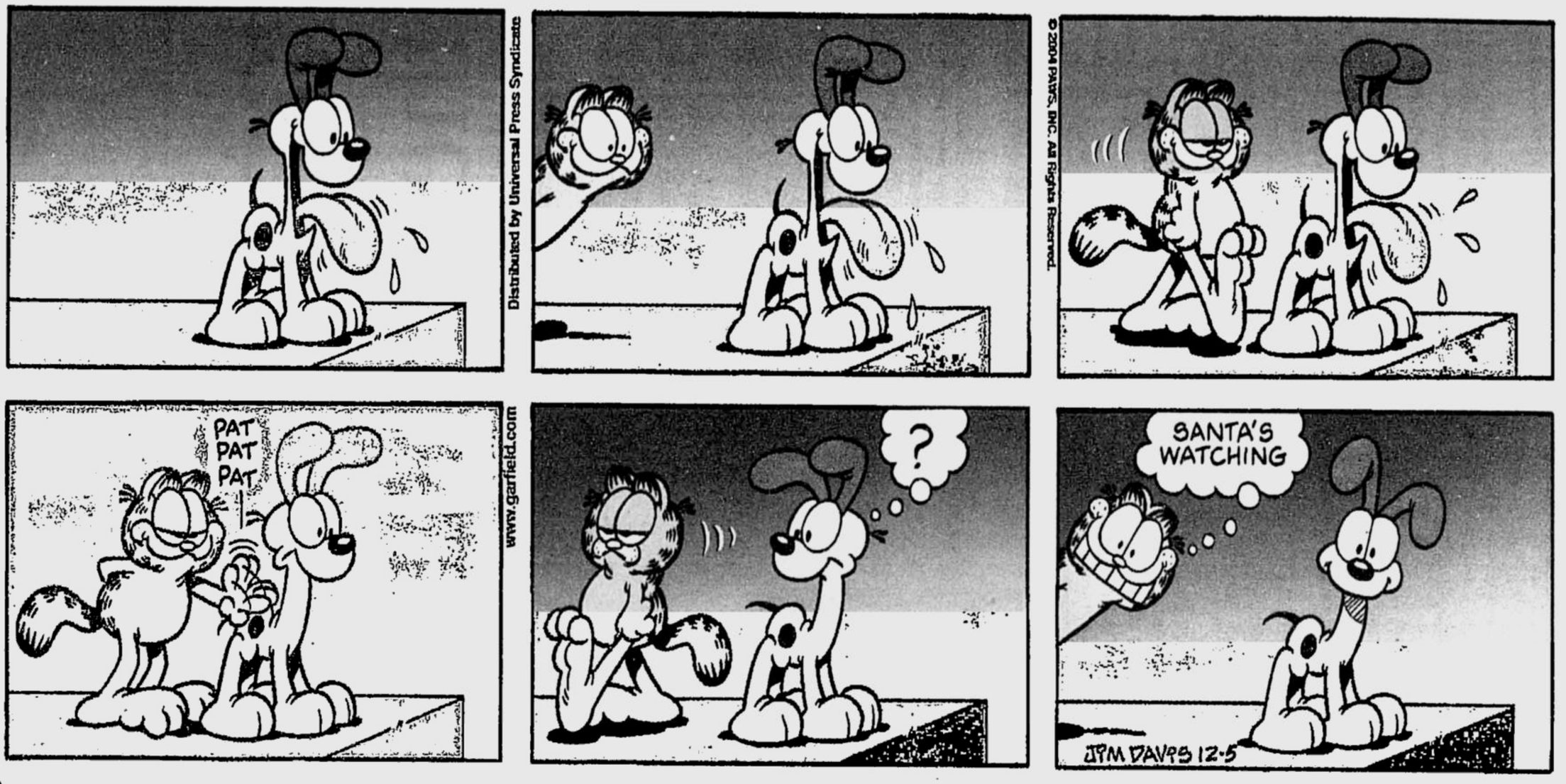
GARFIELD

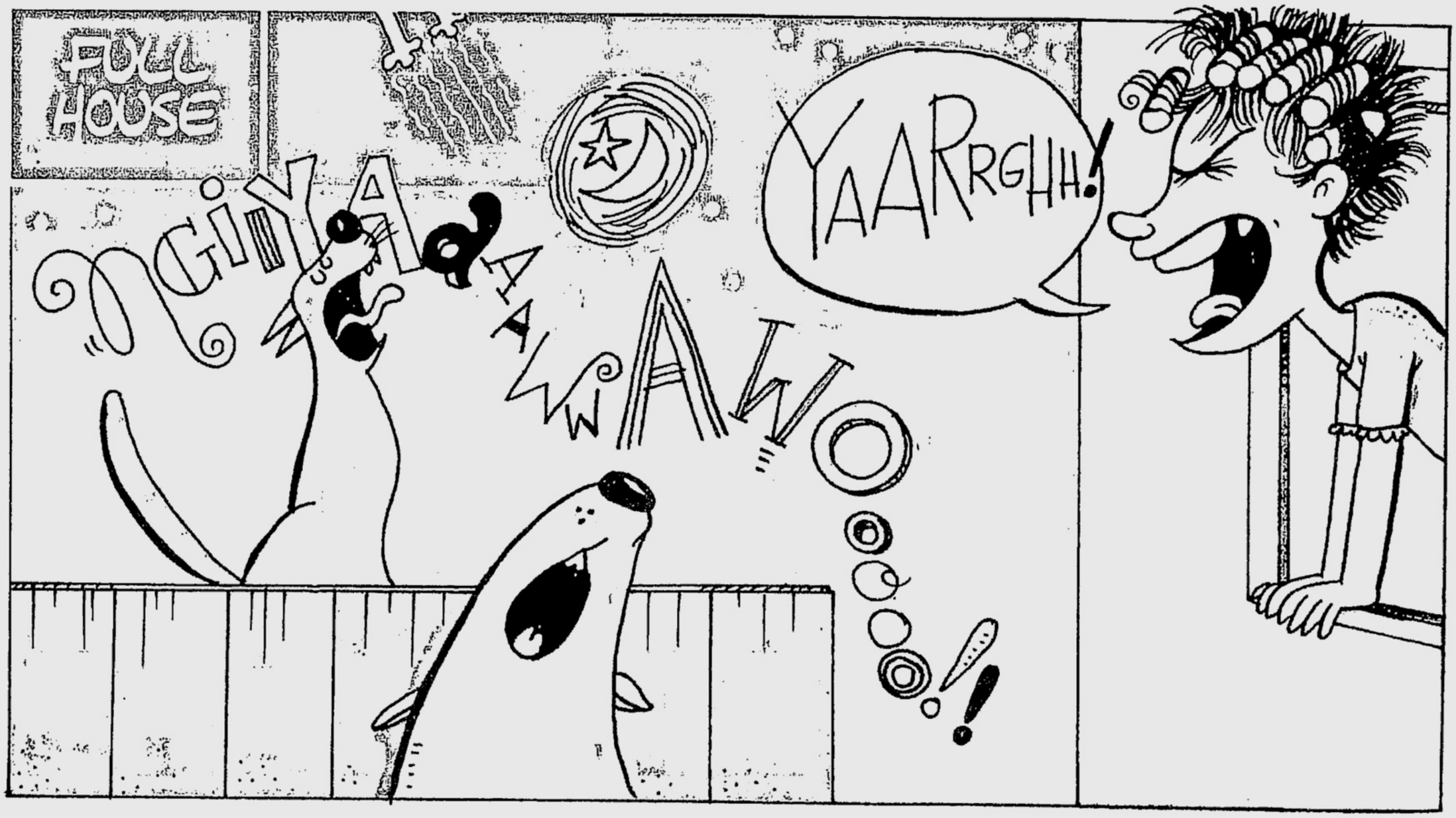
BY JIM DAVIS



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT



Grand Master in the making

From page L1

now revolve around chess.

Asia's first Grand Master and Marc's idol, Eugene Torre, says: "Marc has proven his ability by consistently landing as one of the top players in tournaments. Chess has been instrumental in developing his skills and building his character and confidence. He deserves our support, as well as the many other Marcs out there who also have the potential and who should be given the chance to be introduced to this game."

FOR NOW, this kid dreams of playing against International Master Mark Paragua. RAFFY LERMA

Self-sufficient

Marc is the recipient of a chess-training program by the Rotary Club of Sta. Mesa, where Torre supervises his training. Aside from that, he trains at home an average of three hours every day. He studies his notes during tournaments, takes time to analyze his and his opponents' moves, and voraciously reads chess books.

He is self-sufficient, too, finding ways to support his chess needs instead of merely relying on dole-outs from the government and private companies.

Marc designed a T-shirt to be sold at P500 each to raise funds for his tournaments abroad. It was initially meant to raise money for the recently concluded World Youth Chess Championship in Greece, but Marc was forced to stay home when he contracted chicken pox.

The fund-raising goes on, however, to support his many upcoming tourneys abroad, such as the 2004 Asian Youth Chess Championships in Singapore on Dec. 10.

"I want to be a world champion someday," Marc says.

With only 13 chess world champions around the globe, this ambitious boy just might join the rarefied ranks of Bobby Fischer, Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Christmas According to Successful Men

Christmas is best celebrated in the Philippines over than any other place on earth. TV host Cito Beltran, La Salle cager Mark Cardona, and PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad couldn't agree more.

"Straight Talk" host **Cito Beltran** vividly remembers his first Christmas away from home. "I was a single guy in Connecticut with Scandinavian women, but I was crying. I simply missed home," he remarks. Christmas for him is about continuing a holiday tradition. Tradition consists of looking for a Norwegian spruce, fixing it up and decorating it with the rest of the family at home. Indeed, comfort amid familiarity is important to Cito because he is constantly under public scrutiny as a TV personality. It is the same with his preference in clothes. "It is hard to do an interview if I do not like the color of my pants or if my underwear does not fit well." Hence, comfortable clothes and underwear add to his comfort level when doing the job he loves best.

La Salle forward **Mark Cardona** lived in the United States for two years before coming home to the Philippines and becoming a hardcourt hero. According to him, he is awed by the trappings of a traditional Filipino Christmas: lanterns everywhere, parties galore, the simbang gabi, the long celebration. "Christmas in the states is ordinary. It's very different here. It's more enjoyable," he puts it succinctly. Likewise, comfort amid familiarity is important to Mark. He has no qualms about buying clothes from any local store as long as they're comfortable. He has the habit of buying undergarments which are a bit loose. "B.V.D. undergarments make me feel fresh and cool," he says.

Philippine Basketball League Commissioner and sportscaster **Chino Trinidad** remembers that time in 1993 when he experienced a different kind of Christmas. Together with the Philippine basketball team, he went to Kuwait to bring Christmas cheer to OFWs who had been abused by their employers, "I realized there is nothing like Christmas at home - that it is better celebrated with family and friends," he reiterates. Like Cito, comfort is also important to Chino. Preferring comfort over style, the high quality B.V.D. (Bradley, Voorhees and Day) brand of undergarment is tops for him. "B.V.D. briefs and sando are so comfortable you hardly feel you're wearing them," he says. "They're like your second skin."

For these gentlemen, there is nothing like returning home or being home where Christmas traditions and old yuletide habits remain. An old habit is what the B.V.D. line of men's undergarments is to millions of successful men all over the world for more than 100 years. Fresh and cool, comfort over style – B.V.D.'s Legendary Quality Since 1876.

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ANONG SAY MO?

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday TEXT PROMO

Vote for your favorite comic strip via text and get a chance to win exciting prizes in the weekly and Grand Draw!

Mechanics:

1. Read Inquirer Comics Sunday every week and vote for your favorite comic strip among these titles:

   A. Ragnarok
   B. Darna
   C. Garfield
   D. Mothergoose and Grimm
   E. Pugad Baboy
   F. Inday Wanda
   G. Zits
   H. Full House

2. To vote, type:

   INQVOTE <Corresponding letter of title>

3. Send to 291 for SMART and 2949 for Globe.
4. The more text messages you send, the more chances to win.
5. Voting opens every Sunday at 6AM of each week and closes on the Thursday at 12NN of the following week.
6. Winners will be drawn via electronic raffle. There will be three (3) weekly winners and one (1) Grand Draw winner.
7. Draw dates are as follows:

Week Number	Period	Draw Date
1	November 21 - November 25	November 25
2	November 28 - December 2	December 2
3	December 5 - December 9	December 9
4	December 12 - December 16	December 16
5	December 19 - December 23	December 23
6	December 26 - December 30	December 30
7	January 2 - January 6	January 6
8	January 9 - January 13	January 13
9	January 16 - January 20	January 20
10	January 23 - January 27	January 27

8. Weekly draws will be every Thursday at 2PM facilitated by a DTI representative.
9. Grand Draw is on January 27, 2005.
10. All texters from the beginning until the end of the promo are qualified for the Grand Draw.
11. Weekly winners can only win once per week but they are also qualified for the Grand Draw.
12. Prizes:

    Grand Draw

    First Prize: 1 Personal Computer
    Second Prize: 1 Cellular Phone
    Third Prize: 1 Gift Pack from Fully Booked or Filbar's

    Weekly Draw

    Each weekly winner will receive the following:
    - Comic books from Fully Booked
    - Comic books, fun items and gift certificates from Filbar's
    - Ragnarok fun items from Levelup!

13. Weekly and Grand Prize winners will be notified via text message. Names of the winners will also be posted in the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
14. Winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office upon presentation of a valid ID plus the SMS notification.
15. Prizes not claimed within 15 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Philippine Daily Inquirer.
16. All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors, their advertising agencies and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

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THE EMBASSY of Belgium presents the Las Piñas Boys Choir on Dec. 16 at the Podium.

Celebrate a European Yuletide

THE EUROPEAN Commission Delegation and the European Union member states, with The Podium and Smart Communications, will take shoppers on a magical tour of continental Christmases with the "Amazing EU Christmas," Dec. 7-16 at The Podium's second level lounge.

The centerpiece of the event will be a tableaux of Christmas trees decorated by each participating embassy with homegrown ornaments and trimmings. "Amazing EU Christmas" presents an opportunity for The Podium shoppers to discover how the different European Union countries celebrate the holidays through carols and choirs, performances and Christmas stories.

Participating EU member states include Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

Santa Claus from Finland will make a brief stop at The Podium on the opening reception night on Dec. 7 at 6 p.m.

Later in the evening, the French School Choir will be performing traditional and contemporary carols like "Noel Blanc," "Mon Beau Sapan" and "Vive le Vent." The performance is presented by the Embassy of France.

Barbara Nuade, First Secretary of the Embassy of Austria, will tell the story behind the 165-year-old carol, "Stille Nache, Heillige Nacht" (Silent Night, Holy Night). Learn more about this fascinating story on Dec. 10, 3 p.m.

With a tradition rich in Christmas music and lore, the Embassy of Austria will also present the Kaibigan Vocal Ensemble and the Pundaquit Virtuoso String Ensemble on the same day at 4 p.m. The former is an all-female group that toured Europe's key cities early this year, including Rome, where they received standing ovations for their performances.

The Pundaquit Virtuoso String Ensemble, on the other hand, is a group of musically gifted children under the tutelage of young violin virtuoso Coke Bolipata. Based in Zambales, the group has slowly been gaining acclaim with their dazzling interpretation of both classical and pop compositions. Austrian carols are included in the repertoires of both ensembles, including of course, "Silent Night."

On Dec. 11 at 5 p.m., the Embassy of Spain and Instituto Cervantes will present Spanish Christmas stories for kids like "Papa Noel Para Siempre," "El Mas Pequenito Arbol de Natividad," "Feliz Natividad Geraldine," "No Asia la Natividad Walter" and "El Arbol de Estrella."

Through storyteller Vivan Mangalindan, kids will learn about Christmas in Spain. Mangalindan is articulate in four languages and has appeared as a speaker in international conferences in the US, France, Spain, Mexico, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Guam and Saipan.

This will be followed at 6 p.m. by a musical presentation of the Technological Institute of the Philippines Choral Society under the leadership of Ateneo Glee Club alumnus Onyk Torres. The choir will serenade mallgoers will Spanish carols like "Pastores de la Montana," "Aquel Gaban Tan Tan," and "La Vienne La Vieja."

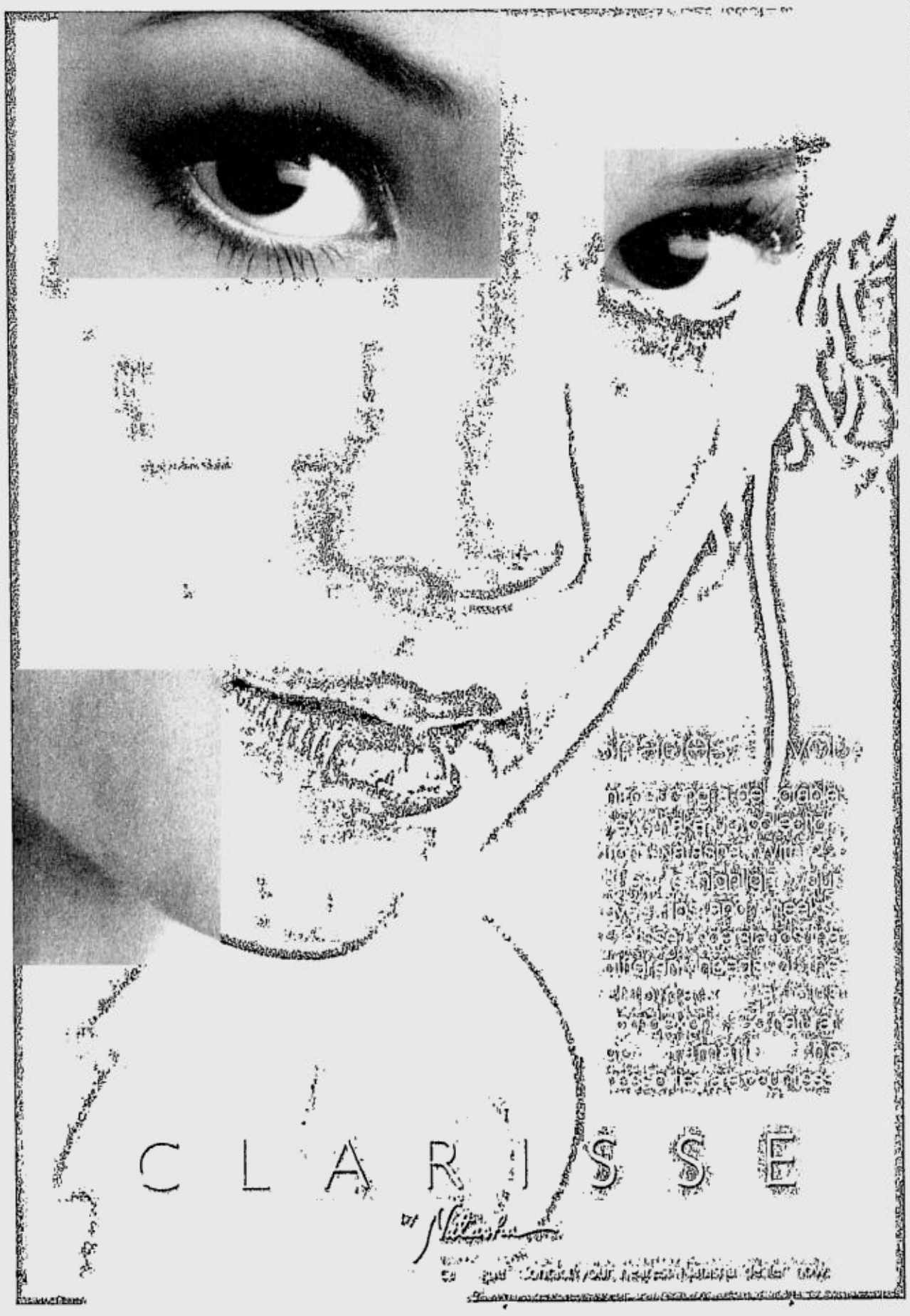
Shoppers will get a rare glimpse of Sweden's Lucia Celebration in a presentation by the Embassy of Sweden on Dec. 12. The celebration honors St. Lucia, who is said to traditionally open the door to Christmas with her escort of singing boys and girls.

Linda Skegsberg's rendition of Swedish Christmas Stories at 3 p.m. will begin the performance, followed by the Lucia Choir at 5 p.m. composed of young Swedish children who will sing traditional songs like "Ute ar morkt och kallt" (Lucia Song); "Lusse Lelle" (Little Lucia), and "Pepparkasgubbar" (Three Gingerbread Men).

Angelic voices will fill the mall on Dec. 14 as Coro Angelitos, through the British embassy and the British Council, serenades shoppers with English carols like "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "O Come All Ye Faithful," and many more at 7 p.m. Earlier in the day, Melody Romrea will delight kids with a storytelling session of Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" at 6 p.m.

One of the European Union's newest member states, the Czech Republic, will present "Famous Czech Animated Stories for Children" on Dec. 15 at 4-5 p.m. and at 6-7 p.m. at the mall's second floor lounge area.

Capping the festivities is the world-renowned Las Piñas Boys Choir as presented by the Embassy of Belgium on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. Their repertoire will include traditional Christmas carols from Belgium and the Philippines as well as Flemish carols.



IT'S a children's Christmas at the Shang with Effie Nañas Dancenter's young ballerinas.

Kiddie Christmas at the mall

AS part of a series of Christmas presentations, Shangri-La Plaza presents "It's A Small World Christmas," a theatrical show featuring the talented cast and team of Trumpets, Asia's first professional gospel theater group.

The show casts 12 kids playing the roles of toys—ballerina dolls, drummer boy, gymnast doll, toy soldier, marionette, rag doll, walking doll, choo-choo train, robot, puppet and violinist doll—gathered under a big Christmas tree.

The song-and-dance play also features Lana Jalosjos in the role of a Christmas angel. "It's A Small World Christmas" will run Dec. 5, 12, 21 and 26 at the mall's Grand Atrium.

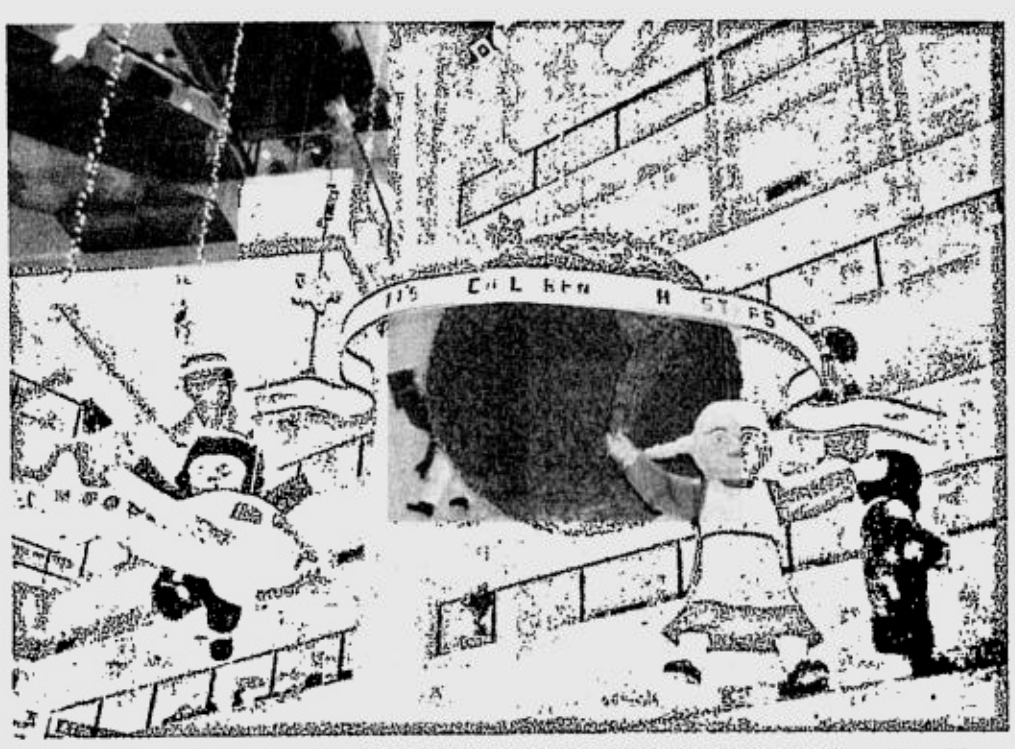
Charles Perrault's classic "Cinderella," will be staged in an interactive musical storytelling by Kids Acts Philippines, also at the Grand Atrium, on Dec. 11. With musical direction by Eugene Belbis and direction and script by Luigi Nacario, the musical has Ruth Alferez, Diana Alferez, Joann Co, Irene Delarmente, Judith Javier and Paolo O'Hara in the cast.

Effie Nañas Dancenter will present a Christmas ballet performance at the Grand Atrium on Dec. 22, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Among the choirs serenading shoppers will be the Ateneo Chamber Singers at the Art Plaza, Level 4, Dec. 11, 4-5 p.m.; Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong at Level 3, Dec. 12, 3-4 p.m.; Philippine Madrigal Singers at Level 3, Dec. 18, 4-5 p.m.; Tiples ng Makati at Level 3, Dec. 19, 3-4 p.m.; and the Kilyawan Boy's Choir at Level 3, Dec. 26, 3-4 p.m.

On Dec. 16, the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Master Chorale perform at the Grand Atrium from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On Dec. 17, Concert Queen Pops Fernandez takes center stage in a special Christmas concert with the award-winning Philippine Children's Choir of Mandaluyong at the Grand Atrium, 7-8 p.m.



IT'S a small world after all at the Grand Atrium where a colorful globe hangs from the ceiling, together with figures of kids from different countries.

Acoustic Perfection, composed of violinist Corinna Fabella Lapeña, guitarist Nobel L. Queaño and cellist Francisco S. Llorin Jr., will perform in "A Classical Christmas Concert," a series of shows scheduled on Dec. 17 and 22 at the Art Plaza, and on Dec. 24 at the Grand Atrium.

Holiday shows at Streetscape, the Mall's outdoor entertainment and dining strip, will feature Juice on Dec. 10, REtroSPECT on Dec. 11, FreeVerse on Dec. 17, John Y Cash & The Jukebox on Dec. 18, and Dimsum & D'Soul in an exciting pre-New Year's Party on Dec. 30.

Santa Claus will be touring the Mall on Dec. 5, 11, 12, and 18 to 23, and will pose with the kids and their families for souvenir photos.

KIDS Acts presents Cinderella.

Shangri-La Plaza invites all kids to join "A Very Jerry Christmas," a celebration with Cartoon Network at the Grand Atrium on Dec. 19. Jerry (of "Tom & Jerry" fame) is taking a break from his show to get an early start on his holiday gift-wrapping.

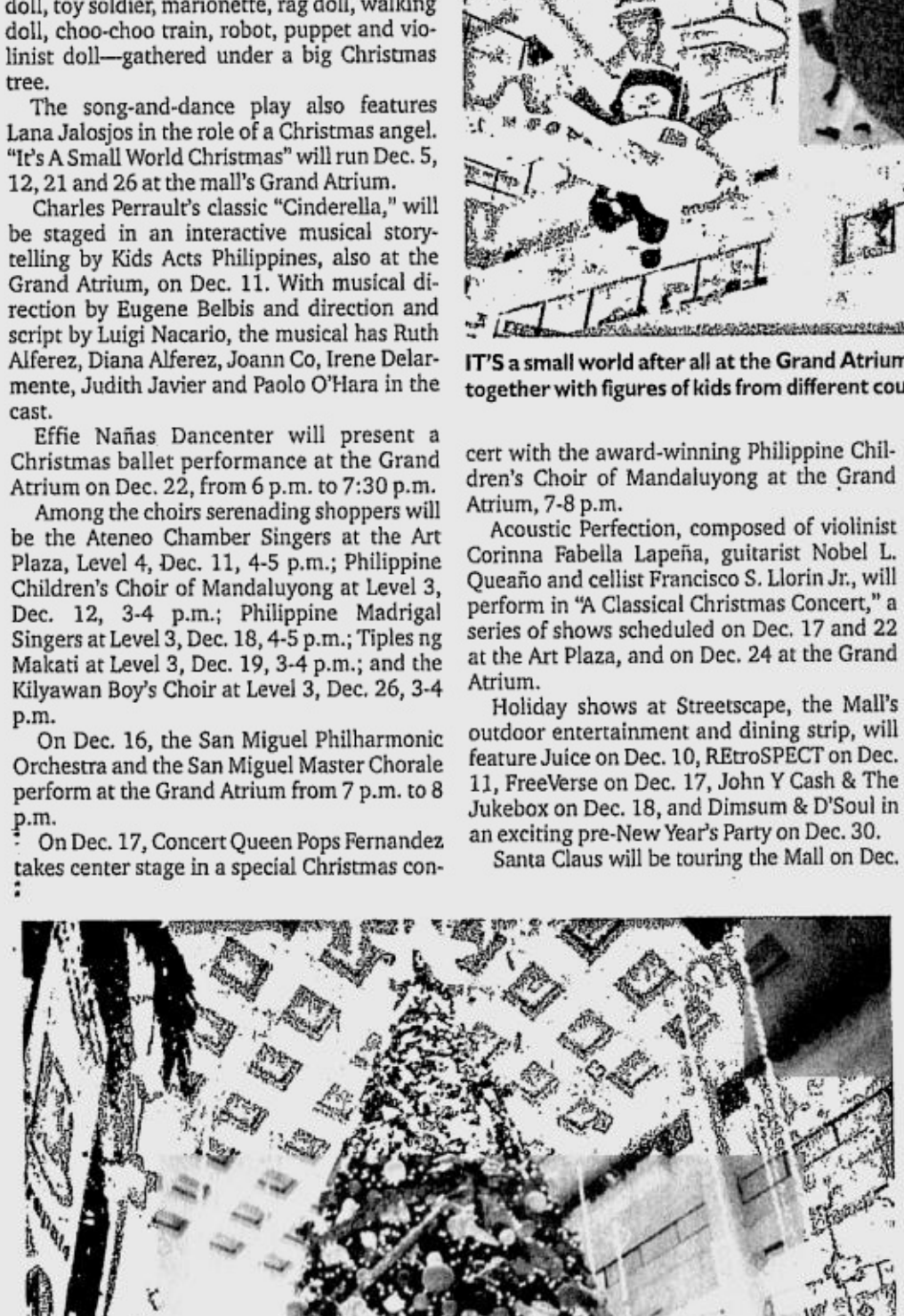
Catch the show on Cartoon Network until Dec. 15 and let us know what you think Jerry is wrapping. The first 200 entries to identify all three gifts will win Tom & Jerry Prize Packs and a Cartoon Network VIP Pass.

VIP Pass holders will get a chance to win the grand prize at "A Very Jerry Christmas" Celebration at Shangri-La Plaza on Dec. 19, where kids will meet Tom & Jerry live.

Learn the art of gift-wrapping in "It's A Wrap with Wrap Shop," a Christmas gift-wrapping session slated on Dec. 10 at the Art Plaza, Level 4.

Mall hours on Dec. 8-23 are 10 a.m.-10 p.m. On Dec. 24 and 31, Christmas shopping will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The Mall will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

Regular mall hours—10 a.m. to 9 p.m.—will resume Dec. 26-31. Call 6337851.



A GIANT 45-ft Christmas tree, adorned with gold ribbons, balls in pastel colors, ice cream cones, gingerbread men, teddy bears, lollypops, hearts and golden stars, takes centerstage.

PINK and white organza outfits with belt bow.

Holiday dresses

SM'S holiday collection for kids turns on the fashion charm with lovely organza dresses fit for a ball.

Delightful feminine touches—ribbons and bows, a shower of beads and pearls, and exquisite floral appliqués—add to their storybook enchantment and allure.

These holiday dream dresses are available at the Children's Wear Department of all SM stores.

CHRISTMAS cheers. Nina and Amy in lime green checkered dresses sprinkled with pink beads, pink flower applique, lace belts and bows

GO Oriental this Christmas in this blue and pink floral printed Chinese inspired dress with beadwork and matching party bag.

A traditional Christmas of merry-making in the park

ENCHANTED Kingdom in Santa Rosa, Laguna, makes merry to celebrate the essence of Christmas. Various rides and attractions ensure whole families of an enjoyable time when they visit during the holiday season.

The Kingdom's seven park zones offer different delights.

The Midway Boardwalk has a carnival atmosphere with clowns, jugglers and mime artists to make rides like Anchors Away, Up, Up and Away, Condor, Dodgem, Wheel of Fate, or Bump n Splash fun.

At Boulderville, kids can enjoy the teacups of Bumbling Boulders, airplanes of Air Pterodactyl, the kiddie ferris wheel of Stone Eggs, or the dinosaur rides of Dinosoarus.

The futuristic Spaceport has the country's only triple-loop rollercoaster, the Space Shuttle. The Kart Trak is a one-hectare racetrack.

A replica of a place in Panama where the Spaniards sent Incan treasures, Portobello Zone offers the Flying Fiesta, Rio Grande Rapids, and Xtreme Paintball, or watch a horror movie at the 4D Discovery Theater.

For those who love the outdoors, there are the Jungle Log Jam and Swan Lake at the Jungle Outpost Zone.

Enchanted Kingdom also has retail shops offering a wide array of gifts. It also has "ticket treats" like the Enchanted Kingdom Gift Bundle that includes almost everything priced at P600.

EK's Wizard Money, the "official currency" inside the park, can be used to buy admission tickets, food, and various merchandise. Also available are the "Wizard Treat" and the "Carousel Special."

Enchanted Kingdom has food carts serving popcorn, hotdogs, sandwiches and drinks. Restaurants also offer a varied selection of dishes. The theme park also offers ice cream cakes.

Various surprises also await visitors as well as an impressive fireworks display.

In December, the park features celebrity storytellers, including Jacklyn Jose and Mari Kaimo.

Live shows will feature Bamboo, Daisy Reyes and the Daze Band, as well as the park's in-house band, mPower.

Enchanted Kingdom schedule for the holidays:

Dec. 1-3, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Dec. 4-5, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; fireworks, 9 p.m.

Dec. 8-10, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Dec. 11-17, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; fireworks, 9 p.m.;

Dec. 18-Jan. 2, 10 a.m. -12 m.n.; fireworks, 10 p.m.

Call 8436070 to 78, 8302111 to 16, or visit the EK website at www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph.

Belt and wallet set for Dad (P199.75)

Budget-friendly gift choices

Three shoppers were recently challenged to buy Christmas presents from Robinsons Department Store (RDS) for four special people in their lives within a P1,000 budget.

Shopper No. 1, JP Paglinawan, is a yuppie. His gift recipients included the boss, an officemate, an 'inaanak' and his girlfriend.

He got his boss a Dinner set costing P199, his co-worker a Memo Pad Holder for only P99.75, his 'inaanak' a Snooker pool set for P100 and added in a piece of B+ Active Boys' shirt for 99.75, his girlfriend a Julia Clutch Bag costing P189.75 and a Liberté sleeveless blouse (P289.75). The purchases amounted to P978.

Shopper No. 2, mom Kathy Ventura, bought gifts for her "kumare", her two daughters and the baby.

She started off with a five-piece feeding set for the baby for only P139.75 and a four-piece Christmas mug set at P199.75 for her favorite 'kumare'.

For her two daughters, Ventura bought a Doggie Shoulder Bag at P229.75 and a Picnic and Tea Play set for only P287.75.

The total amount: P857, with enough left over for her own purchases.

Shopper No. 3, Charlotte Chua, is a college student. Gift recipients were her mom and dad, brother and best friend.

For her dad, Chua chose a Belt and Wallet Set, and for her older brother, a Portside Two-In-One Short sleeve Tee Pack. Both sets went for P199.75 each.

She got her Mom a Julia Three-in-One Bag (P249.75) and her best friend a P69.75 Liberté Sleeveless Top and a Denim bag at P99.75. The total cost was P818.75.

Like these three shoppers, you too can find inexpensive gift items at any RDS branch.

Visit the nearest Robinsons Department Store in all Robinsons Malls, Waltermart malls, Tutuban Center, Starmall Shaw, Metropolis and Festival Malls in Alabang, and Nepo Mall-Pampanga. Visit www.rds.com.ph

Budget Keeper

Savor the affordable deliciousness of Datu Puti Chinese Adobo.

Ingredients:

500	grams	pork kasim with a little fat, cubed
1 1/2	tbsps	minced garlic
1/8	tsp	freshly ground pepper
6	pcs	whole black peppercorns
1/4	cup	**Datu Puti Soy Sauce**
2	tbsps	sugar
		water to level off
2	pcs	eggs, hardboiled
1	pc	sanque (star anise)
1	tbsp	**Datu Puti Vinegar**
		a pinch of five-spice powder

Procedure:

1. Put all ingredients together in a deep casserole. Let boil then simmer till pork is tender.
2. When pork is tender, taste the soup and season.
3. Add hardboiled eggs. Make sure they're covered with sauce. Serve while hot.

Serves 4 persons

Budget Keeper Tip: Eggs act as extenders so that less pork is required.

Kusina de bilidad

Sikretong Sarap ni Mommy

SAFI Heinz UFC

From the makers of leading condiments & sauces

Taste & Value

Fressan Bakery

Reward Yourself!

SM City, San Fernando Pampanga • Robinson's Place Manila • Robinson's Tutuban • Robinson's Galleria • Nepo Mall, Angeles City Pampanga • SM Centerpoint Manila • SM Megamall • SM City Fairview • SM City Marilao • SM South Mall • La Trinidad, Benguet

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Use your BPI Express Credit Card now! Call 683-0008 to join.

BPI Express Credit

The BPI VOLVO Lifestyle Promo

For BPI Express Credit Classic/Burgundy, Blue MasterCard and Gold MasterCard, every ₱500 single purchase entitles cardholder to one raffle entry. To join, just register your purchase by calling the promo hotline: 683-0008 for Metro Manila and 1-800-10-683-0008 for provincial cardholders or email bpi.lifestyle@1isa.com. Promo period: November 15, 2004 to April 30, 2005.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3121, Series of 2004

For Petron-BPI MasterCard, every ₱500 fuel purchase in participating Petron stations entitles cardholder to one raffle coupon. To join, just drop coupons at these stations. Promo period: October 21, 2004 to April 30, 2005.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2521, Series of 2004

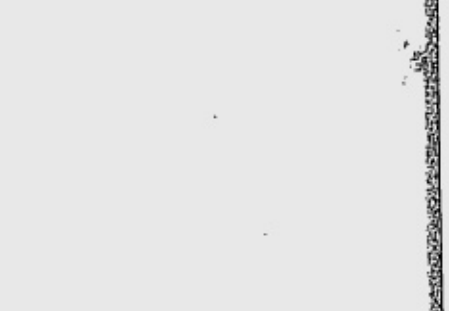
Plus a chance to win a dream prize package worth ₱800,000 in the Lifestyle Dream Card Rewards promo: Asian Cruise for 2, Home Remodelling, Home Entertainment Showcase, Rustan's Shopping Spree, Hotel and Dining Gift Certificates and Gym Membership at Fitness First. Just tune in to the Lifestyle Channel for more details. Promo period: November 6, 2004 to February 4, 2005.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2731, Series of 2004

Close to ₱10 million worth of prizes!

VOLVO V50 Sports Wagon. Prize for BPI Express Credit Classic/Burgundy or BPI Express Credit Blue MasterCard

VOLVO XC90 SUV. Prize for Petron-BPI MasterCard



VOLVO S80 Executive Sedan. Prize for BPI Express Credit Gold MasterCard

Actual unit may vary from photo

Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries. For application and inquiries, call BPI Express Phone 89-100, visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch or Express Banking Center or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

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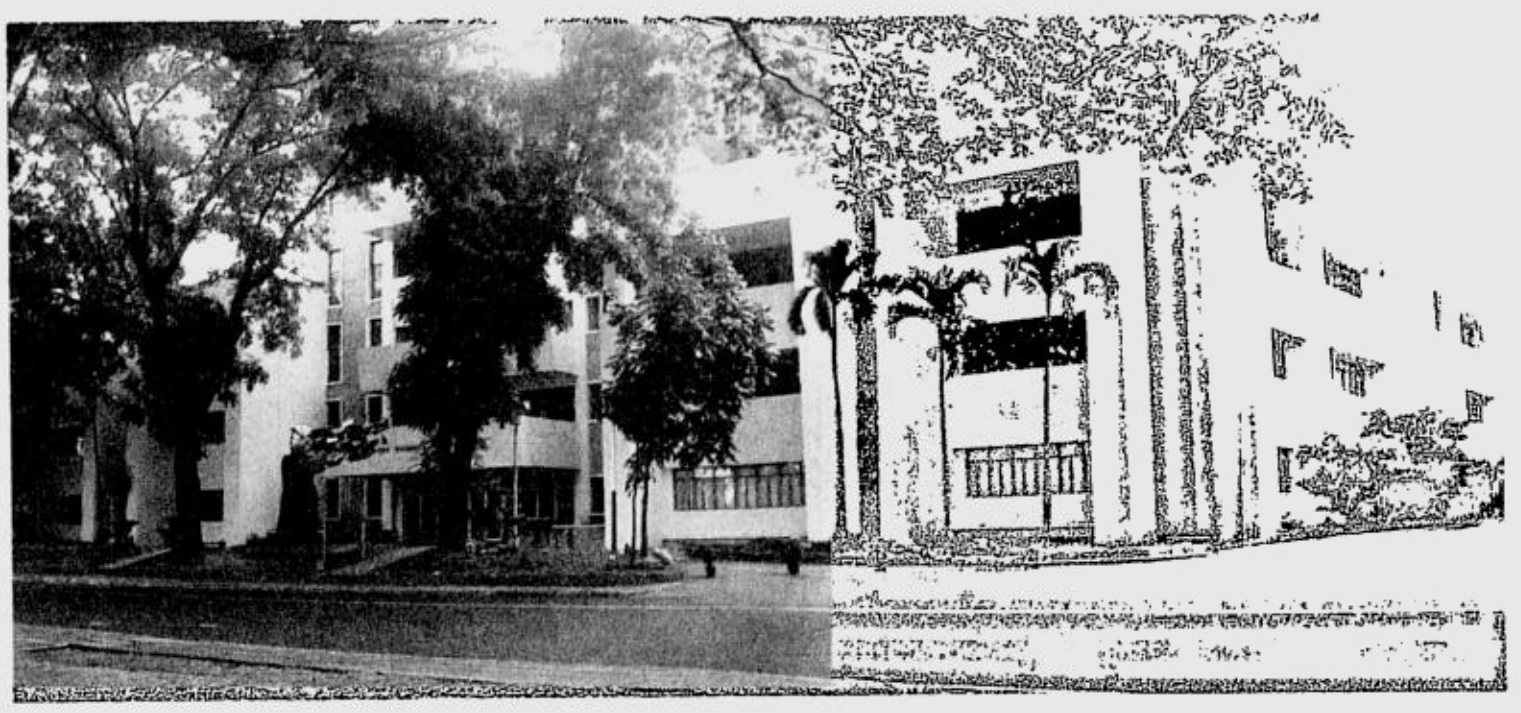
Distinguished Alumni & Donors Honored

UP College of Business Administration Celebrates 88th Year

Sen. Manny Villar keynote speaker

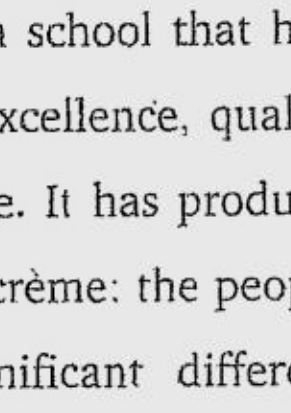
By Marlet D. Salazar

KEY figures in the business sector, government, and public service are products of a school that has long adhered to excellence, quality, and independence. It has produced the crème de la crème: the people who made a significant difference in their respective fields.



The long list of graduates of the University of the Philippines College of Administration (UPCBA) who have become familiar names and faces in the business and government sectors is a living testament that quality towers above quantity.

Victoria Bello-Jardiolin, herself a BSBA and MBA graduate of the college, witnessed the ascent of these alumni from being persevering students to contributing members of the Philippine society. She is now a professor in the college after completing her Doctoral studies from the University of Catholic Church in Germany.



Among her students are now well-known personalities like Sen. Manny Villar and wife Rep. Cynthia Villar of Las Piñas, Melito Salazar, a member of the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Marivic Añonuevo of Ayala Land Inc, and Johnlu Koa, the founder, CEO, and general manager of French Baker. Jardiolin is the founder of such commercially successful shoe stores Confetti, Natasha, and Marikina Shoe Exchange.

"We have the pick of the crop," Jardiolin said. "It is already a contributing factor as to why we have excellent people."

UPCBA has provided a venue for promising students who have limited means.

"We would like to concentrate our resources on bright kids," Jardiolin said. "We want our students to create jobs not to compete for jobs. That is the thrust of the college."

Proof of this is one company's faith on its graduates. Procter & Gamble Philippines particularly picks graduates of UPCBA (BA and Accounting) for its roster of employees.

"The college is a source of future leaders," said Johnip Cua, a graduate of Chemical Engineering from UP, and the president and general manager of P&G.

"Many of our managers in the company who came from UPCBA have shown exemplary leadership qualities, provided innovative ideas, originality, and resourcefulness," Cua said.

The spirit of UPCBA lives on long after its alumni left school. Its distinguished alumni have emerged with colorful careers in their chosen path either by providing jobs or excelling in their own fields. They have etched their names as leaders and credible influences in the community.

The following are only a handful of alumni who validate the true mission of UPCBA. These are just some of the Distinguished Alumni Awardees of 2001 until 2003.

Entrepreneurs

Roberto P. Alingog, the president and CEO of the Philippine Rural Banking Corp. A BSBA graduate, he set up Ropali Stores, which sells agricultural machinery and equipment in Isabela. He was awarded the Most Outstanding Filipino Entrepreneur in 1994 by the National Economic Protectionism Association, Most Outstanding Isabelino: Entrepreneur Category in 1996 by the local government.

Johnlu G. Koa is better known as the founder of French Baker. As a student he was known for his dynamism. He was recognized as an outstanding student leader before graduating cum laude (BSBA) in 1979. He completed his MBA in the college five years later. He also taught Marketing and Business Policy and served as College Secretary for five years. He was a recipient of the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Award for Entrepreneurship.

Salvacion U. Leuenberger is instrumental in promoting the flower industry in Davao. Leuenberger established her own accounting firm in Davao. She has a degree in BSBA. Her love for flowers led her to set up an orchid business in Davao. She has been significantly involved with Picpa for many years and served as national president in 1991.

Conchita L. Manabat is a BSBA graduate who found her way in several top business firms. She is a managing partner of CL Manabat and Co, which is the Philippine member firm of Deloitte Touche Tomatsu. She also serves as a part-time dean at the St. Scholastica's College in Manila.

Jose L. Poe Jr. has a BSBA degree before pursuing Law. He is best known for providing jobs with his janitorial services company and security agencies like Jaguar, El Tigre, Leopard, and Puma. For 25 years, Poe was able to employ 50,000 people.

Professional Managers

Flordelis Francisco-Aguenza now sits as the president and COO of the Planters Development Bank. She began her career in the banking sector after obtaining a degree in BS Business Administration from UPCBA. Over two decades ago, she joined the Planters Development Bank as con-

UPCBA/N3

UP's new president targets P5 billion for Centennial Fund

EMERLINDA R. ROMAN, UP's newly elected first woman president, plans to create a Centennial Commission to oversee a fund-raising campaign to raise P5 billion to fund projects and programs for the school.

She said resources are needed to fund scholarships, faculty development programs, modernization of facilities to transform the state university into a world class university.

"The university will strengthen its links with alumni, friends, industry partners and other stakeholders and engage them in an active and vigorous campaign for resource generation."

A BS Agriculture graduate from UP Los Baños in 1972, Roman obtained her master's degree in agribusiness management from UP Diliman in 1977 and her doctorate in Business Administration also from UP Diliman in 1989.

She went on to teach business administration, and through the years held various administrative positions: faculty regent (1995), university secretary (1988-1991), vice chancellor (1985-1988) and chancellor of UP Diliman, a position she held in 1991-93 and from 1999 to the present.

She also served as chair, Department of Business Administration, College of Business Administration from 1997 to 1999. She was director of Undergraduate Studies, UP College of Business Administration, 1980-1986. She was secretary of the College, UP College of Business Administration, 1976 to 1980 and 1892 to 1984.

With a six-year term, Roman holds the added distinction of being UP's centennial president since the country's premier university will celebrate its 100th foundation anniversary in 2008.

She will replace outgoing UP president Francisco Nemenzo who will officially retire on Feb. 9, 2005.

She said under her leadership, UP will secure its place as the "national or premier institution of higher learning in the country and at the same time assert its position in the international academic community."

With this objective, Roman will pursue a 10-point agenda or strategies that include developing other UP constituent universities into centers of excellence, mobilization of the UP scientific community to undertake research to build up the country's science capacity, and developing UP into a community of scholars with academic credentials or having a faculty pool with doctoral degree holders.

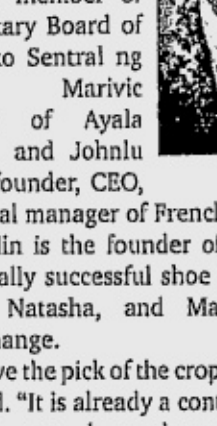
Roman's 10-point plans will also pursue the strengthening of faculty development program of elementary and high schools and state colleges and universities.

In relation with this, she will also undertake the development of all UP campuses as Centers of Culture and Languages.

"Constituent universities must be at the

CENTENNIAL/ N7

Greetings!



WE warmly welcome back the Golden Jubilarians (Class 1954), Silver Jubilarians (Class 1979), and Ruby Jubilarians (Class 1964), the alumni of the 90s, and the MBA and Doctoral degree graduates of the College. We also welcome former colleagues in the faculty who are joining this homecoming.

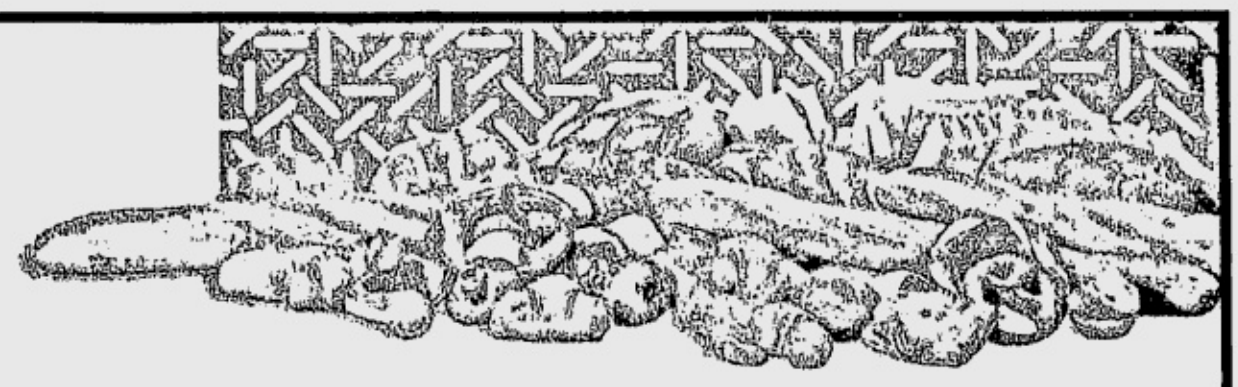
We give special thanks to Senator Manuel B. Villar, Jr. for his help in the renovation of the college building and for finding the time on this occasion to unveil the marker for the Undergraduate Studies Center together with Congresswoman Cynthia Villar, president Francisco Nemenzo and chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman.

Our gratitude also goes to our generous alumni donors who made possible the renovation of our lecture rooms, namely: the Jardiolin Family, Class 1954, Class 1967, Class 1970, and the UP MBA Alumni Society and, to Mr. Johnlu G. Koa's donation for the establishment of The French Baker, Inc. Professorial Chair.

Congratulations go to our Distinguished Alumni Awardees and thanks to the Board of Judges consisting of our beloved chancellor of U.P. Diliman, Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, UPAA president General Jaime de los Santos, and The French Baker CEO/general manager Johnlu G. Koa.

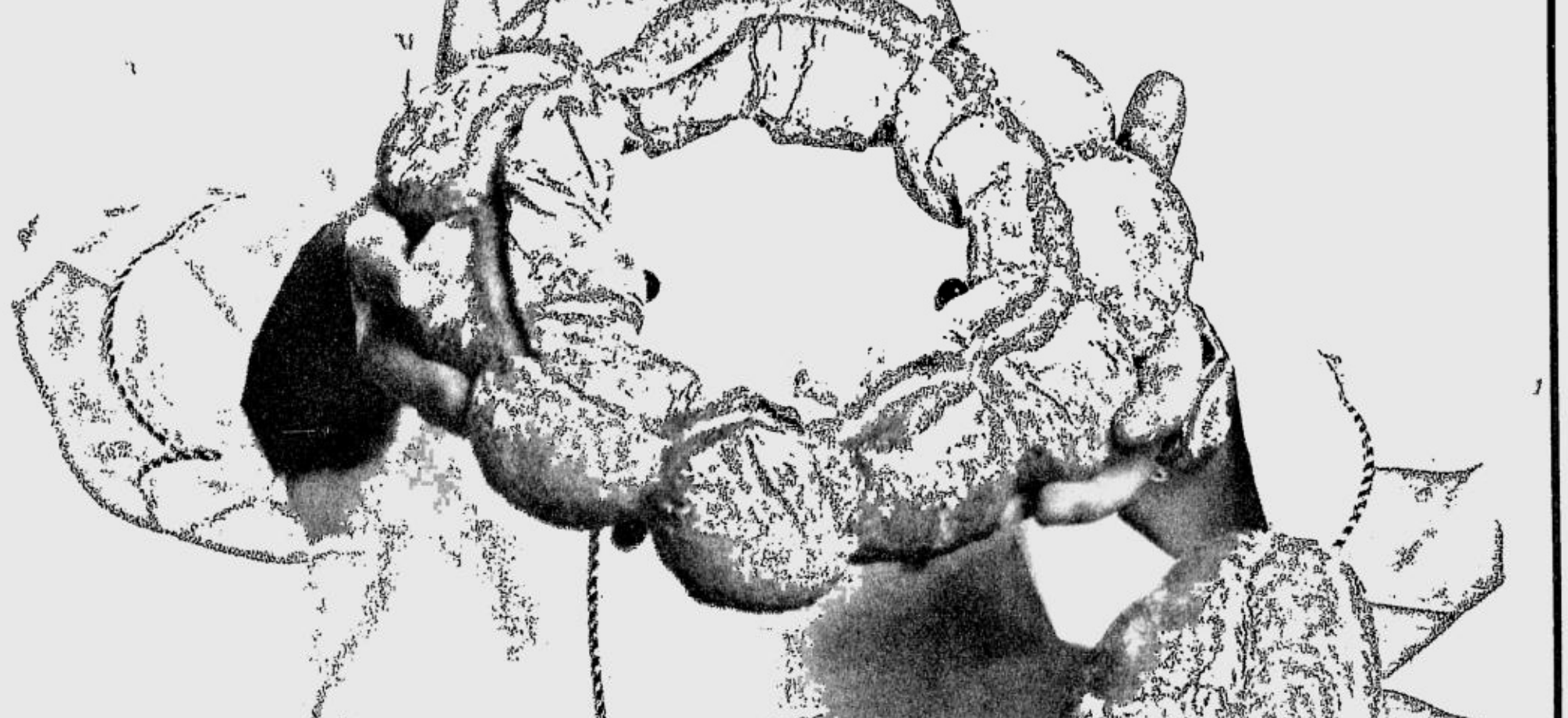
I also thank the college alumni homecoming committee chaired by professor Dani Rose Salazar and professor Michellene Cruz.

(*Sgd.*) ERLINDA S. ECHANIS
Dean



"Probably most business schools teach the same subjects. But at the U.P. College of Business Administration, I've learned more about academic discipline, professionalism and the ability to achieve more results with limited resources."

Johnlu G. Koa
Founder & CEO
The French Baker, Inc.
BSBA 1979, MBA 1984
Silver Jubilarian
TOYM Awardee for Business & Entrepreneurship 1996



Special Thanks to:

Coca-Cola

THE ORIGINAL THE FRENCH BAKER

UPCBA celebrates 88th Year

From page N1

sultant.

Bayani S. Aguirre has been involved with the United Nations Development Programme, World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization, and he was assigned as the Country Programme Director/Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP in Sudan.

Eduardo R. Alvarez, BSBA and MBA graduate is the president and CEO of Orix Metro Leasing and Finance Corp since 1989. He served as the president of Finex and its Research and Development Foundation. Alvarez, earned a Dean's Award for his role in the establishment of the Development Center for Finance.

Ma. Victoria E. Añonuevo weaves a colorful career after graduating cum laude of the BSBA in 1971. She completed her MBA at the top of her class. While teaching, she co-authored a textbook on Marketing Management. In 1996, she joined the Ayala Group becoming the general manager of Roxas Land Corp. Añonuevo attended the Program for Management Development at the Harvard Business School in Boston a year after. She is now a vice president at Ayala Land Inc.

Antonio M. Cailao currently holds the position of managing director of Asia e-bank and Commercial Banking Group of Fleet Boston Financial. He obtained his undergraduate and MBA degrees from UPCBA. He established a successful career with Citibank becoming its World Corp group head of Citibank Seoul and Caracas, Valenzuela. He was also the Asia regional head for trade in Citibank Hong Kong and Asia region head for Pan Asia Corp.

Florido P. Casuela served as president of the Land Bank of the Philippines in 1998. He took up his business and MBA degrees from UP. He was a manager and eventually a vice president at the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company. He is now a senior adviser for Philippine National Bank at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Corazon R. Estrella, the current executive vice president and chief financial officer of the 1st E-Bank has an illustrious career in the private sector. A BSBA graduate, Estrella is also the consultant to the Asian Development Bank for its Program to Accelerate Small and Medium Enterprise Financing. She also sits as a member of the board of directors of the PNOC Energy Development Corp.

Aurora Mauricio-Rubin is the global director of Risk Management at Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. She finished her BSBA from CBA. She started as a senior research and training specialist at SGV & Co before moving to New York to join the office of Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Rubin became DTT's first director for risk management. She also served at the International of Auditing Services and the national director of Accounting and Auditing Professional Development.

Government / Public Service

Estelita C. Aguirre rose from the ranks at the Bureau of Internal Revenue, starting out as a Revenue Examiner. She then became the Deputy Commissioner. She also became a member of the Board of Accountancy at the Professional Regulation Commission.

Lilia R. Bautista was a former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission. She was a Dewitt Fellow at the University of Michigan, and a Prentice Hall scholar at the New York University in Corporate Finance and Reorganization.

Emilia T. Boncodin is the beloved Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management. A BSBA and Accounting graduate, Boncodin joined DBM in 1979 as a member of the Technical Staff of the Development Budget Coordinating Committee. She earned her Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at the Harvard University. She was one of the Ten Outstanding Women in the Nations Service in 1995 and Presidential Golden Heart Awardee in 1998.

Rep. Junie E. Cua is the champion of education with his initiatives geared toward the development of public school teachers and scholarships for students. He is a four-term representative for the Lone District of Quirino. He was appointed Presidential Assistant for Northern Luzon in 1998, and Presidential Action Officer for the Central East Asian Growth Circle Program in 2001.

Dakila B. Fonacier served as the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue until 2001. He was a full-time member of the faculty of the college and earned his MBA from the Northwestern University under a Fulbright and Ford Foundation grant. He served in the Ministry of Trade, Natural Resources, and Budget. He is also a successful businessman with Odyssey Records.

Rep. Roilo Golez of the lone district of Parañaque topped his MBA class from the college. He graduated with distinction from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis major in Mathematics and Operations Analysis. He had been an elected member in Congress. He held key positions in the government being the National Security Adviser and Director General of the National Security Council under the Arroyo administration. He was voted Most Outstanding Congressman in 1995.

Romulo L. Neri graduated magna cum laude and class valedictorian with a BSBA degree major in Marketing. At the University of California Los Angeles, he completed his MBA major in Finance and International Management. He used to teach at UPCBA right after graduation. Neri has been a key figure in various private firms sitting in finance-related positions. He is now a familiar figure being the current Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning and Director General of the National Development Authority.

Melito S. Salazar Jr. is now the president of Finex. He earned his BSBA and MBA from CBA. After graduating, he became a member of the faculty until 1999. For many years, Salazar served as a director of the UP Institute of Small Scale Industries. He was undersecretary for Industry and Investment and Governor of the Board of Investments. He has authored 15 papers which were eventually included in books published in Asia and Europe. He was awarded the UPAA Professional Award for Management, UPCBA Public Service Award, and the Outstanding Negrense Award.

Sen. Manny Villar and wife Rep. Cynthia Villar could be just two of the most successful UPCBA alumni in government service. Senator Villar, however, also qualifies to be one of the most successful entrepreneurs who is a product of the college. His success story is an open book. His recognition is endless: TOYM, Agora for Marketing Management, Most Outstanding CPA, and Most Outstanding UP alumnus.

Military

Former AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya was an MBA graduate of the UPCBA. He was commissioned in 1971 upon graduation from the US Military Academy. At West Point he was a consistent Dean's Lister and the only Filipino Cadet to hold the rank of Cadet Captain. He holds an MS Degree in Civil Engineering from Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos is the Commanding General of the Philippine Army. He is a PMAer and a graduate of the UP MBA Class of 1974. He is the first Filipino and Asean national to command a UN-led multinational force in East Timor. He is currently the president of the UP Alumni Association and a member of the UP Board of Regents.

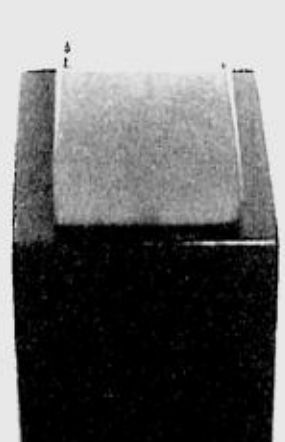
Sen. Manny Villar and wife Rep. Cynthia Villar could be just two of the most successful UPCBA alumni in the government service.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
University of the Philippines Diliman
2004 Distinguished Alumni Awardees

EDGAR B. AGLIPAY
Police Director General
Philippine National Police

JOEL L. TAN-TORRES
Partner, SGV&Co.
Philippine National Police

GRACE DEL ROSARIO-CASTAÑO
President and Managing Director
Johnson & Johnson (Phils.), Inc.



MA. ANA ELIZABETH P. VALENCIANO
President
Manila Genesis Entertainment & Mngt., Inc.

DOMINADOR V. GREGORIO, JR
Retired; Partner & Managing Director
SGV&Co., 1969-1990

JESSE M. ROBREDO
Mayor
Naga City

CYNTHIA A. VILLAR
Representative
Las Piñas City

2003 Distinguished Alumni Awardees

NARCISO L. ABAYA
Chief of Staff
Armed Forces of the Philippines

ESTELITA C. AGUIRRE
Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Internal Revenue
Member of the Board of Accountancy
Professional Regulation Commission

CORAZON R. ESTRELLA
Executive Vice President & CFO
1st E-Bank
Member of the Board of Directors
PNOC Energy Development Corporation

SALVACION U. LEUENBERGER
President, General Manager
SUL Orchids

ROMULO L. NERI
Director General
National Economic and Development Authority

2002 Distinguished Alumni Awardees

BAYANI S. AGUIRRE
International Development Consultant

ROBERTO P. ALINGOG
President and CEO
Philippine Rural Banking Corporation

EDUARDO R. ALVAREZ
President and CEO
ORIX METRO Leasing and Finance Corporation

MA. VICTORIA E. AÑONUEVO
Vice President
Leisure & Lifestyle Communities Group

EMILIA T. BONCODIN
Secretary
Department of Budget and Management

JOSE ROILO S. GOLEZ
National Security Adviser & Director General
National Security Council

JOHNLU G. KOA
CEO & General Manager
French Baker, Inc.

JOSE L. POE, JR.
Chairmana Emeritus
Joe Poe & Sons, Inc.

MELITO S. SALAZAR, JR.
Member, Monetary Board
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

MANUEL B. VILLAR
Senator
Senate of the Philippines

2001 Distinguished Alumni Awardees

FLORDELIS FRANCISCO-AGUENZA
President and COO
Planters Development Bank

LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Chairman
Securities and Exchange Commission

ANTONIO M. CAILAO
Managing Director
Asia e-Bank and Commercial Banking
Group of Fleet Boston Financial

FLORIDO P. CASUELA
Senior Adviser
Philippine National Bank at the
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

JUNIE E. CUA
Representative
Lone District of Quirino, 12th Congress

JAIME S. DE LOS SANTOS
Commanding General
Philippine Army

DAKILA B. FONACIER
Public Servant and Entrepreneur
Odyssey Records

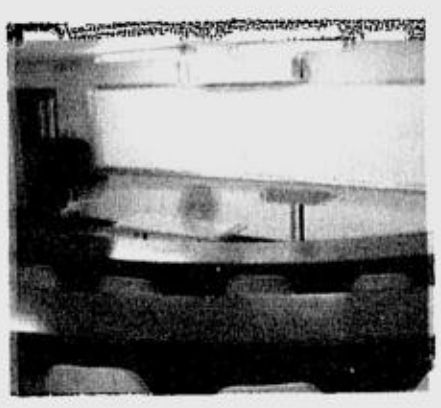
VICTORIA BELLO-JARDIOLIN
CEO, Entrepreneur
Confetti Shoes and Natasha

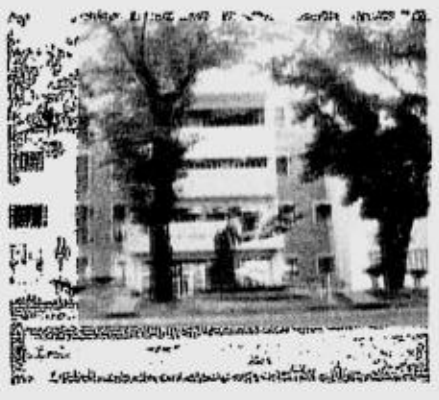
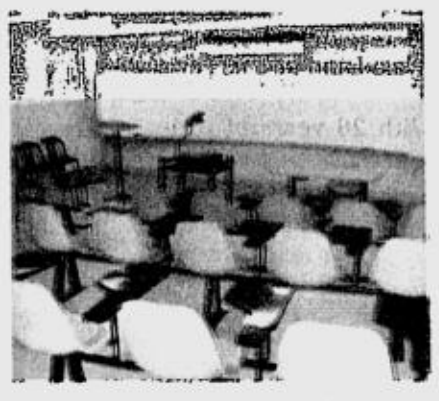
CONCHITA L. MANABAT
Managing Partner
C.L. Manabat & Co.

AURORA MAURICIO-RUBIN
Senior Partner
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Special PROJECT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2004

Unfolding an era of excellence



THERE could have never been a more fitting time to acknowledge the years of struggle, triumph, and pride than on its 88th founding anniversary. A lucky year for some but for the UP College of Business Administration (UPCBA) every year is a cause for celebration for every effort, development, and achievement within its community.

Thanks to the efforts of Vicente Singson, Teodoro Yangco, and Francisco Ortigas and the approval of then UP president Ignacio Villamor, the two-year course (leading to Bachelor of Science in Commerce) was introduced. The year was 1916. Through the years, the college has now evolved to become the premier business school in the country setting the highest standards of quality education in its BS degrees and MBA programs.

In the years leading to 1928, attempts were initiated to push for an independent School for Business. Conrado Benitez had the opportunity to become the first dean of the UP College of Business Administration. Years later, the college awarded its very first graduate degree in Masters of Science in Industrial Engineering.

In 1940, Gil J. Puyat became the second dean of the college.

From then on, the college saw several transformations, innovations, and developments both tangible and in the professional aspect with a brief interruption during World War II. In 1947, a year after classes resumed, Jose E. Velmonte sat as dean of the college.

In its reopening after the war, the success of the courses and programs showed remarkable results. With this premise, new programs like the Doctoral Program in BA, Master of Agri-Business Management program, and the five-year Bachelor of Science in BA and Accountancy were introduced.

From 1959 to 1961, Jovino S. Lorenzo served as the dean of the college followed by Cesar EA Virata. It was in Virata's time that the college celebrated its golden anniversary.

The college also instituted full-time MBA program and joint programs like the BS in Agri-Business in cooperation with the College of Agriculture, BS in Business Economics in cooperation with the School of Economics, BS in Hotel and Restaurant Administration in cooperation with the College of Home Economics. This was done in 1969 under the leadership of Dean Jaime C. Laya.

Dr. Emmanuel T. Velasco succeeded Dean Laya in 1975. He took the task of overseeing the construction of the new building.

At the dawn of the '80s, Dr. Magdaleno B. Albarracin Jr. became the 8th dean of the college.

To be able to have a competitive faculty, the college also decided to recruit new faculty with doctoral degrees, faculty fellowship for junior faculty, and post-doctoral fellowships for senior faculty in major universities in Canada through the grants from CIDA.

Dr. Cesar G. Saldaña took his oath in 1986. The Philippine Management Review was launched, a venue for the research outputs of the college faculty.

By the year 1992, Prof. Rafael A. Rodriguez sat as dean and initiated linkages with the industry through the Development Center for Finance.

Dr. Elvira Zamora is the first woman dean of the college. She continued the initiatives of dean Rodriguez to establish linkages with the business sector.

Today, dean Erlinda Echanis is actively pursuing support for doctoral studies for junior faculty through linkages with universities abroad. Formal curricular reviews were undertaken and revisions introduced to update and strengthen further the college degree programs.

Unstoppable could be an understatement with the progress of the college. International and local ties were forged with private companies and institutions, business oriented non-governmental organizations, and long-term relationships with its alumni.

As part of the international academic community, the college has joint research programs and active student and faculty exchanges with universities and colleges abroad.

UPCBA ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2004

Program of Activities

10:30 a.m.
Registration of Alumni, faculty and guests
Tour of the Building

11:00 a.m.
Inauguration of Alumni-Sponsored Classrooms

- Jardiolin Lecture Room by Dr. Victoria Bello-Jardiolin
- UPCBA Class 1954 Lecture Room by UPCBA Class 1954
- UPCBA Class 1967 Lecture Room by UPCBA Class 1967
- UPCBA Class 1970 Lecture Room by UPCBA Class 1970
- UPCBA Class 1979 Lecture Room by UPCBA Class 1979
- UPMBA Alumni Society Lecture Room by the UP MBA Alumni Society, Inc.

11:30 a.m.
Unveiling of Marker - Undergraduate Studies Center (3rd Floor, UPCBA Building) Senator Manuel B. Villar, Jr., Congresswoman Cynthia A. Villar
UP President Francisco Nemenzo, and
UP Diliman Chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman

12:00 nn-1:30 p.m.
LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Master of Ceremony: Ms. Bernadette Sembrano and Prof. Benjamin Sandoval

- Invocation Dr. Lina J. Valcarcel
- Introduction of Alumni Classes / Welcome Message Dean IIIErlinda S. Echanis
- Keynote Address Senator Manuel B. Villar, Jr.
- Musical Number by UP Singing Ambassadors
- Entertainment Number from Manila Genesis
- Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony - President Francisco Nemenzo Chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman
- Awarding of Medals to Jubilarians Dean Erlinda S. Echanis
- Turnover of Donations:

The French Baker, Inc. Professorial Chair by Johnlu G. Koa, Founder & CEO

2:00 p.m.
Group Picture Taking of Jubilarian Classes

The UP Business Research Foundation Inc

On October 29, 1971, the UP Business Research Foundation Inc was established at the initiative of the alumni of the UP College of Business Administration. The purpose of this is to encourage and assist research in the business and management sciences towards a more effective operation of industrial, agricultural, commercial, and government enterprises.

Fanny Cortes-Garcia, Jaime C. Laya, Pio P. Pedrosa, Juan D. Quintos, and Cesar E.A. Virata were the incorporators.

It was first certified by the National Science Development Board on December 19, 1971 as a corporation organized for scientific advancement within the purview of Republic Act No. 2067, as amended by Republic Act No. 3589.

During its existence, the foundation supported various programs consistent with the following stated corporate objectives.

To finance projects and programs dedicated to the pursuit of new learning, investigation and/or experiment in the management sciences, leading to a better understanding of industry, agriculture, commerce, and other sectors of the Philippine economy.

To encourage and underwrite researches and studies on the teaching of the managerial and business aspects of the industry, agriculture, commerce, and other sectors of the economy, including financial management, marketing management, production and operations management, agribusiness, and business economics.

To establish scholarships and professorial chairs in the management sciences, business administration, and related fields.

To provide the machinery through which a systematic exchange of information and views can be made among individuals, associations, corporations, and entities, be they governmental or private, who or which are concerned with the promotion and propagation of the managerial aspects of industry, agriculture, and commerce.

To publish and distribute, or cause to be published or distributed, without profit, books, information, case studies, statistics or data on business and management and related subjects, as a result of studies, researches, and projects made thereon.

To cooperate with private government or public institutions in underwriting, conducting and/or sponsoring projects and/or programs, seminars, training sessions, and conferences dedicated to the promotion, propagation and enhancement of business and management sciences.

CESAR E.A. Virata, UPBRF president, former UPCBA dean

To assist in strengthening the library, laboratory and other facilities, teaching, and research capabilities of public or private institutions and foundations of like or similar objectives, alone or in conjunction with others.

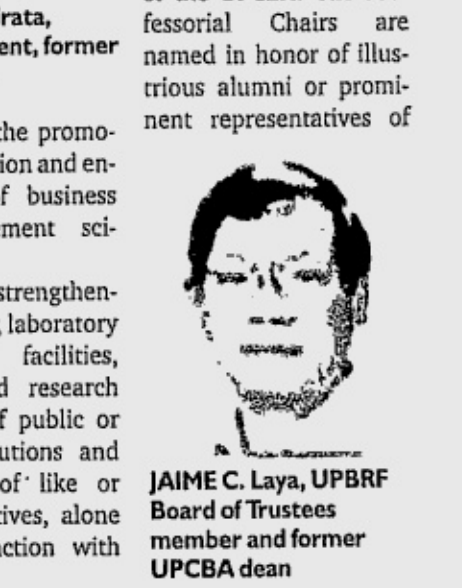
The UPBRF is also responsible for the establishment of Professorial Chairs which help assure the continuance and improvement of teaching and research in business management. A chair may be established with an endowment fund to be managed by the foundation. The income from the fund shall provide financial support to deserving faculty member of the UPCBA. The Professorial Chairs are named in honor of illustrious alumni or prominent representatives of

JAIME C. Laya, UPBRF Board of Trustees member and former UPCBA dean

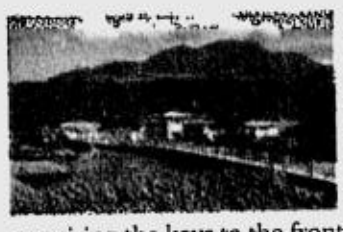
private business and public management sectors. The chairs may also carry the name of the company sponsor.

1st UP president from CBA

Dr. Emmanuel V. Soriano is the first UPCBA faculty to be appointed UP president by the UP Board of Regents. He studied Engineering at the University of the Philippines and obtained a Doctorate in Business Administration from Harvard University. He was a member of the faculty of the UP College of Business Administration teaching Business Policy.



APMC ensures maintenance and appreciation of Ayala Communities



One of the best things about owning an Ayala property comes long after acquiring the keys to the front door. Property management ranks high among the priorities of the country's top real estate firm. Superior quality attracts new buyers, but it's the after sales service that keeps them there, often eager to have more.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of Ayala Land, Ayala Property Management Corporation (APMC) plays a major part in ensuring that Ayala properties maintain and even appreciate in value over time, better than other comparable developments. APMC provides property management services for residential condominiums, shopping centers, subdivisions, parking structures, waterworks operations and other projects developed by Ayala Land and its subsidiaries.

With 28 years of property management experience behind it, APMC shows a marked advantage with a network of professional property managers - all meant to continuously improve and enhance property values.

The Property Concierge

Among APMC's wide array of services, the property concierge demonstrates a strikingly personal aspect to service. At any time of the day, every day, APMC's concierge staff caters to a wide variety of needs any homeowner might have.

The property concierge can facilitate:

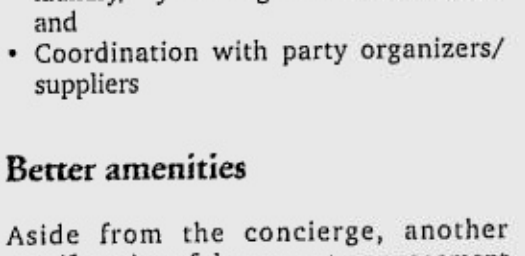
- Reservations of village/building facilities (social hall, tennis court, basketball court, etc.);
- Plumbing, electrical, sanitary and appliance installation needs;
- Aircon cleaning, grease trap cleaning and pest control;
- Housekeeping services;
- Tenancy management;
- Leasing/Brokering;
- Provisions for a directory of community services including information on hotels, restaurants, movie schedules, mass schedule of the nearest parish, daily weather bulletin, cable subscription, phone installation, telephone numbers of fast food outlets and emergency numbers (police, fire department, nearest hospital); and
- Provisions for a directory of pre-qualified, reliable contractors and suppliers for purified or mineral water, LPG, laundry/dry cleaning and courier services; and
- Coordination with party organizers/ suppliers

Better amenities

Aside from the concierge, another manifestation of the property management team's continuous innovation is its constant improvement of amenities and services.

Innovation also comes in the form of fun activities designed to foster camaraderie and friendly relations among residents. Parties for occasions like Easter, Halloween and Christmas are organized for the residents, with activities like an egg hunt, a magic show and a puppet show, and other games to delight participating kids.

In its effort to continuously look for energy conservation initiatives for more efficient operations, APMC also constantly monitors utilities consumption and introduces new building technologies that will reduce operation costs.



Always aiming for the continuous maintenance and appreciation of property values, APMC and its excellent property management efforts help put Ayala communities a notch above competition. APMC works to ensure that buyers who decided on an Ayala Community are happy and confident that they made the right decision.

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AYALA LAND, INC.

UPCBA students consistent winners in major competitions

In Accounting, Finance & Marketing

THE UP College of Business Administration has once again confirmed its place as the top business school in the country. Its students have shown this early exceptional skills and intelligence as they bagged three major prizes in various educational competitions.

The win of UPCBA Diliman 6th Intercollegiate Finance Competition (ICFC) made it the first school to win three times since its launch in 1999. The team which is composed of Maria Andrea Antonino, Mary Grace Dumalaog, Ryan Norman Lim, Judie Mae Montegrico, and Myrose April Victor earned a score of 840 points. The competition is sponsored by the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (Finex).

In the 5th PANAF (Philippine National Association of National Advertisers Foundation) Marketing Communications Competition, the college's representatives won over other finalists from 12 colleges and universities. The team who grabbed the Marketing Communications Award are: Darlyn Sandra Y. Ty, Charlene Alice C. Coyukiat, Jeoffrey Mervin P. Estaris, Nicardo M. Falcis II, and Maureen H. Valencia.

In the recently concluded Certified Public Accountants Board exam, examinees from the college grabbed 11 of the Top 20 spots. Summa cum laude Kristine Lourdes Darang safely secured the No. 1 slot.

For four consecutive years since 2001, UPCBA is the recipient of the Professional Regulation Commission Board of Accountancy Awards for consistently topping the board exams.

UPCBA students prominently figured in major competitions, received awards in and outside the university, and even abroad.

The American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines has given Jennifer Louise S. Magdamit the Best Individual Presenter Award last year while Duke Bajenting was selected to participate in the Singapore International Foundation-Asean Visiting Fellowship in 2002.

Darwin Renolayan is awarded by the Young Entrepreneurs Organization as one of the Ten Inspirational Entrepreneurial Students of 2004 for his business E-MAGES Multimedia Services.

The UP Junior Marketing Association was named Most Outstanding Student Organization last year, while this year the recognition was awarded to the UP Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants by the university's annual Gawad Chanselor.

CBA students captured the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry Contest since 2001 until 2003. Duke Bajenting is the 2001 Most Outstanding Student. From 2001 to 2003, students from CBA won Most Outstanding Accounting Team.

In this year's Agora Youth Awards, CBA valedictorian Karla Aurora C. Soliman is included in the Ten Outstanding Students while the UP Junior Marketing Association is named Outstanding Student Marketing Organization. The Philippine Marketing Association also recognized students of the college by awarding Outstanding Marketing Student Award to Jose Ma. Arturo Castillo IV and Jennifer A. Non in 2003.

Two years ago, one of its students, Dionne Marie M. Sanchez was named one of the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines which was sponsored by RFM, Rotary Movement, CHED, and National Bookstore Inc.

Procter and Gamble Award has given excellence awards to the college's best students since 2002.

FROM left: Editha Acedera (adviser), Raymund Acedera (adviser), Nicardo Falcis II, Darlyn Sandra Ty, professor Benjamin Sandoval (team manager), Jeoffrey Mervin Estaris, Charlene Alice Coyukiat, and Maureen Valencia.

FROM left: Professor Art Cayanan (one of the coaches), Judie Mae Montegrico, Myrose April Victor, Mary Grace Dumalaog, Andrea Antonino, dean Erlinda S. Echanis, Ryan Lim, Franch Isaac (Finex president), UPCBA team coaches: Michellene Cruz, Dr. Raymund Francis Abara, professor Dave Borja, Jude Doliente, Pedro de Ocampo, and Dani Rose Salazar.

The UP MBA Alumni Society Inc

IN THE EARLY 1970s, several UP MBA graduates thought of organizing an association by with they could continue keeping in touch with one another. Also, one of the objectives is to propagate professionalism and management excellence. This gave birth to the idea of organizing the UP MBA Society, Inc.

On December 3, 1973, a pioneering group of six UP MBA graduates got together and executed the Amended Articles of Association of the University of the Philippines Master of Business Administration Alumni Society Inc. (UPMBA-ASI).

Led by Narciso dela Merced, the society initially focused on promoting goodwill and networking.

From 1983 to 1986, during the economic upheaval many of the graduates joined one protest after another. The other members concentrated on pursuing their careers that eventually led to the society taking a break.

After the People Power Revolution, a number of UP MBA Alumni once more got together to revive the society and elected a new set of officers.

On May 22, 1990, 14 UP MBA Alumni led by Manuel Villar Jr. now a senator, worked on amending its by-laws. The group established the identity of the society through the designation of the logo or seal as well as membership requirements, electoral procedures and board directorships. Hand in hand with this was the visioning exercise by which the society developed its mission statement.

Since then, the society has evolved into a more socially involved organization tackling critical issues affecting the country. It became active in various civic activities and seminars. It has maintained close ties with the UPCBA though the UPMBA Professorial Chair and donations. The society also sponsors and donates awards for the Top Ten UPCBA graduates. The society president also participates as an ex-officio member of the board of directors of the UP Business Research Foundation and the UP Alumni Association.

Led by current president Ching R. Evangelista ('80), the society on its 30th year is working for the establishment of the UPMBA Society Lecture Room in the CBA. Its activities now are raising funds in particular a golf tournament aptly called The 1st Manny Villar Golf Cup. There will also be a series of seminars on good governance.

The society looks forward to more years of meaningful, relevant and dynamic existence.

THE UP MBA Society recently held the 1st Manny Villar Cup at Wack Wack Golf to raise funds for the establishment of the UPMBA Lecture Room. Seen (from left) directors Arix Siwa, treasurer, Joy Locsin, Sally Magat, executive director Boots Mejia, Sen. Manny Villar, president Ching Evangelista, director Ogy Mantaring, past president Bimbo Salazar, directors Tony Evangelista, Pat Ferrer, Phoebe Torres, Robbie Fabian, Farley Aguilar, Noli Torres, , Danny Alcoseba and Vic Torres.

Silver Jubilarians meet to discuss donation project

MEMBERS of the Silver Jubilarian Class composed of graduates of the BSBA and BSBAA Programs '79 recently met in the residence of Johnlu G. Koa. Members present were Porky San Juan-Calaquian, Joel Tan-Torres, Chito Sumabat, Patty Limpe, Jo Monzon, Johnny Delegencia, Marilou Ngo, Lorna Cruz-Ambas, Bliss Tiu-delos Angeles, and Angelita Cruz. The class pledged to donate to the college a lecture room, to be inaugurated during the homecoming.

UP's new president targets P5 billion for Centennial Fund

From page N1

forefront of promoting culture, arts and languages in their respective regions," she said.

As to UP's governance and bureaucracy, Roman said she will pursue for the revision of the UP Charter to make it emphasize the role of the faculty and to remove barriers to the provision of fair and decent wages to the faculty and staff.

UP's bureaucracy will be re-engineered, structures and operations will be streamlined and UP will no longer engage from activities where it has no expertise or capability to undertake or deliver.

Roman served as chancellor of UP Diliman before being elected by the Board of Regents (BOR), UP's highest governing body, on Nov. 22.

She won a 7-5 majority vote and edged out the ambassador to the United Kingdom and Palace candidate Edgardto Espiritu to become UP's 19th president.

UP DILIMAN chancellor Emerlinda R. Roman with UP president Francisco Nemenzo at the Quezon Hall lobby after the Board of Regents Meeting selecting the new UP president.

"This is a victory for the university," said Roman after the voting. In the campus, Roman is known for her leadership, integrity and work ethic. She's also known for her efficiency and coolness.

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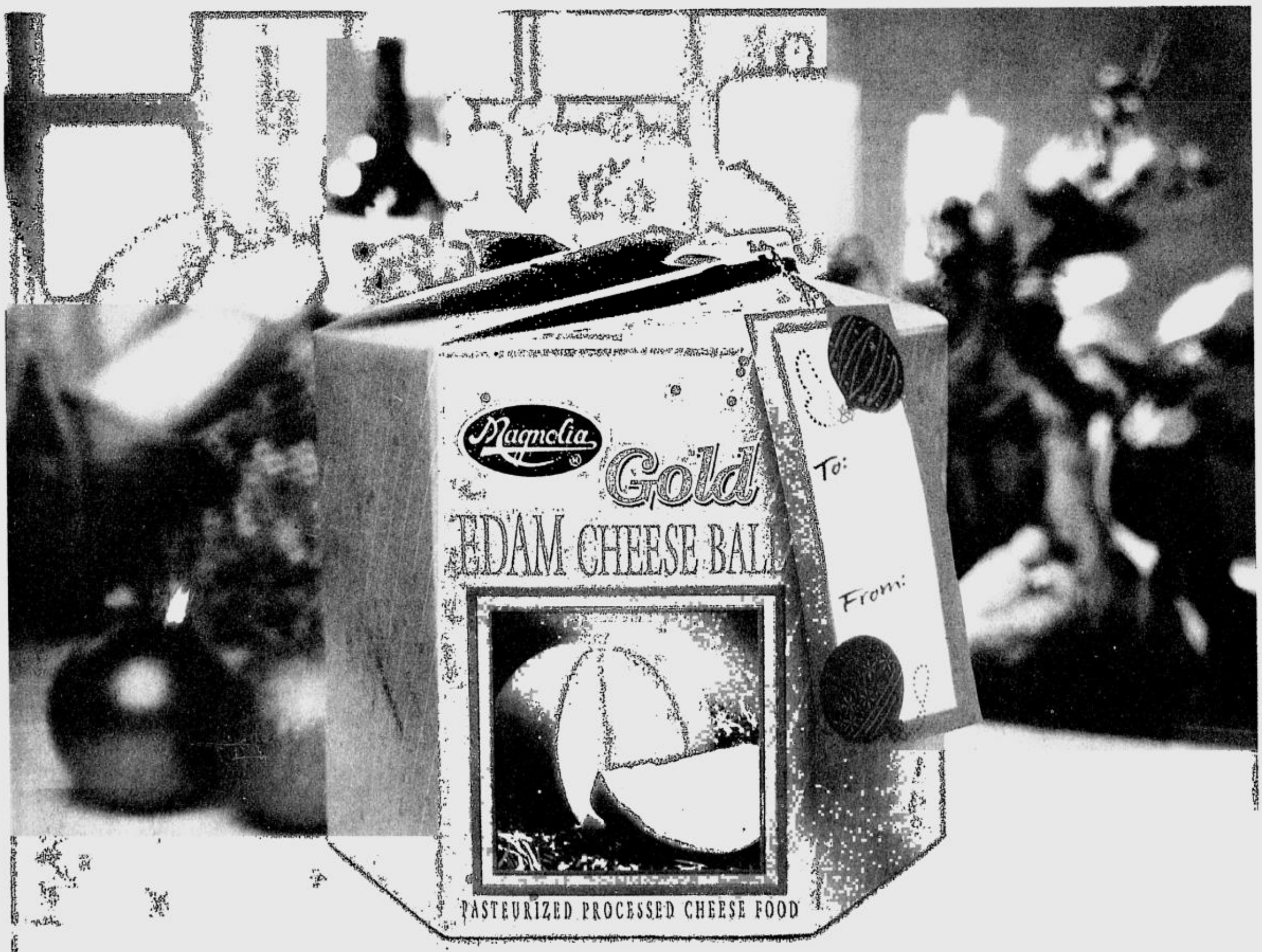

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Building gets facelift, thanks to donors

COMPARED to its humble beginnings, the UPCBA building is now a validation of the college's commitment to further improve and develop its home.

From hopping to one neighbor college building to another, it found a home at the Benitez Hall in 1959. But it was in the mid-'70s that UPCBA finally had its own building to where it sits now. The construction was financed by the national government and the alumni led by then UP Business Alumni Association president Fanny Cortes-Garcia.

Today, incumbent Dean Erlinda Echanis has been very active in involving its alumni and generous donors for the modernization of the building and the training of the faculty.

The rooms to be inaugurated today are the Class 1954, Class 1967, Class 1970, Class 1979, UPMBA Alumni Society, and the Jardiolin Lecture Rooms.

Dean Echanis who has taken the role of securing that the UP modernization is fully implemented in CBA, expressed deep gratitude for the alumni and donors "who made possible the renovation of our lecture rooms."

Each room in the five-storey building of CBA is maintained under generous donations of building sponsors who donate an endowment for its improvement and upkeep.

The 2004 UPCBA Alumni Homecoming has Honoree Classes of 1954 (Golden), 1959 (Sapphire), 1964 (Ruby), 1969 (Coral), 1974 (Pearl, 1979 (Silver), and the 1990s. UP Business Alumni Association president Al Guerzon, and UPMBA Alumni Society president Rosario Evangelista will be on hand to welcome the college's alumni.

In celebration of this year's Alumni Homecoming, Sen. Manny Villar will be inaugurating the Undergraduate Studies Center at the third floor of the CBA building. He will be joined by Rep. Cynthia Villar, UP president Francisco Nemenzo, and incoming UP president Emerlinda Roman.

Efforts mount to step up advanced studies for faculty

IT was former Prime Minister Cesar Virata who actively lobbied for the faculty to obtain advanced studies abroad. The first recipients of these endeavor were Manuel S. Alba, Magdaleno B. Albarracin, Jaime C. Laya, Rafael A. Rodriguez, Emmanuel V. Soriano (UP president 1979), Anselmo Trinidad, and Emmanuel T. Velasco. It was also during Virata's time that the Master of Business Administration was offered in the college.

In order to compensate the untiring efforts of the faculty and to encourage them to further their studies, the UP Business Research Foundation Inc was established, also to create Professorial Chairs to recognize the achievements of the faculty members who have distinguished themselves in their fields of businesses. The Chairs provide supplemental resources to faculty members in teaching and research endeavors. The UPBRF has established 49 Professorial Chairs.

UPBRF was conceived and established by the alumni of the UPCBA with the following as incorporators: Fanny Cortes-Garcia, Jaime C. Laya, Pio P. Pedrosa, Juan D. Quintos, and Cesar E.A. Virata.

This year, alumni and successful entrepreneur Johnlu Koa is donating the French Baker Professorial Chair.

On the other hand, faculty grant awards provide incentives to younger and promising members to do research or creative works.

Over the years, staff development programs were initiated with the college research and administrative personnel participating in continuing training seminars.

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'Idealism' is not an ugly word

It's easy to be cynical, says Joel Torre, but he remains optimistic about local movies

TORRE, two decades after "Oro, Plata, Mata"

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE ACTOR from Bacolod City now wears many hats and he enjoys every one of them.

He is the father of two girls, Aila, 13, and Marela, 9. He is an entrepreneur, running a now very popular dining place called JT Manukan Grille with his wife, Cristie. In between he acts in films and *teleseryes*.

Joel Torre has just finished portraying an unlikely character in "Marina," and appears as the leader of a guerilla group in the new Cesar Montano starrer, "Panaghoy Sa Suba" (Call of the River).

During this interview, he calls himself the glorified GRO (guest relation officer) of his 2-year-old restaurant along Valencia Street corner Gilmore in Quezon City.

"In between acting assignments, I basically spend most of my time supervising this new business," Joel says.

Mesmerized by 'Oro'

He was only 21 when he appeared in the monumental Peque Gallaga film "Oro, Plata, Mata" in the early '80s. "When we were shooting it, I knew it was going to be a classic. Now, more than 20 years later, I know why," he says. "I was mesmerized by its scope. I sensed it had a deeper message, even if at first you are dazzled by its sheer grandeur."

Joel's first film appearance was actually in Lino Brocka's "Gumising Ka, Maruja." Later he landed a cameo role in Ishmael Bernal's "Pabling," where Peque was production designer. At the time, he was doing his "film and television internship" and commuting from the set of "Bilibid Boys" to that of the TV show "Tsampoy."

What he learned from Gallaga was to adhere to the spirit of any worthwhile project. "When you believe in what you are doing, you have to go all the way," he explains. "That's still my attitude now—to commit fully to good projects."

Thus, he practically acts for a song in young filmmakers' projects, and gets carried away by non-commercial movies. He has taken small but substantial roles in the films of Lav Diaz—the four-hour "Westside Story" and the latest 10-hour "Evolution of a Filipino Family").

Deplorable state

The actor deplores the current lack of ideas in the "assembly line" that is local film production. "We no longer bother with things that a film should communicate," he sighs. "The foremost consideration is, who's hot and who's not. The vision of the filmmaker is set aside in favor of quickies that will bring in the money. This is why I am very happy that independent filmmakers persevere in spite of the lack of support from those who are supposed to protect the industry. When I do a project, I want something good remembered about it. I want good ideas immortalized."

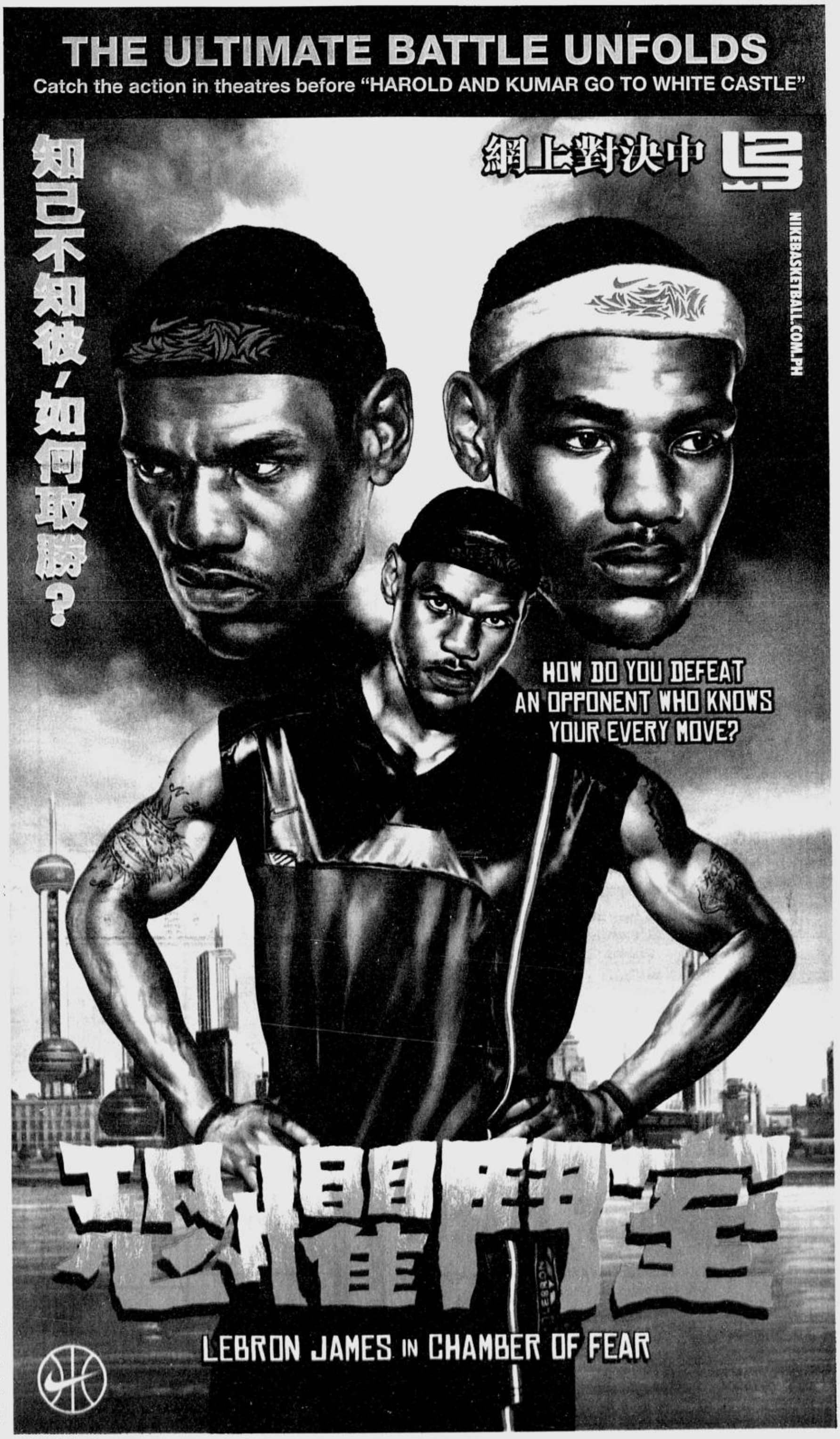
At the moment, Joel is most enthusiastic about "Panaghoy Sa Suba," which Montano also directs. He feels the film will revive enthusiasm for Visayan cinema which, in the past, were shown only in the region. "Now we will have a Visayan film competing in a Manila-based film festival, with big chances of attracting international attention. The trend in world cinema now is to be true to your own. To quote the late Quijano de Manila, 'To be regionalistic is to be foremost nationalistic.'"

Can't teach that

Joel actually started in theater when he was seven (he was active in the Masskara theater group run by Gallaga). Youngest in a brood of 13, Joel says at least eight members of the family got involved with theater every summer. "Theater is the place to instill discipline and develop the right attitudes," he says. "You can't teach that to people who think show biz is all glamour and no hard work."

After more than 20 years in film acting, Joel has managed to avoid being seduced by the limelight and learned to relish show biz just the way it is. Citing the cynicism that plagues the industry, he says he can only strive to become an ideal human being without dropping the idealism of his youth.

"It's tough to talk about idealism now when everyone is so cynical, not just of the movie industry but of the entire country as well," he points out. "I think now is the time to test that idealism. I am cynical about certain things, but the optimism remains. We just need to believe that, with all the bad things we read in the newspapers, there is something basically good in all of us, and we need to preserve that."



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RENÉE ZELLWEGER HUGH GRANT COLIN FIRTH

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6	NATIONAL TREASURE

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Sponge Cola scores

THIS year has been great for Pinoy artists of every genre—pop, hip-hop, R&B and rock. Among dozens of emerging acts, Sponge Cola has risen above the college band cliché and become a formidable part of today's rock scene.

The group's much-anticipated full-length album, "Palabas," was released by Sony Music Philippines only last Oct. 18, but it's all sold out, with individual cuts landing in Metro Manila charts.

"Palabas," the title, is an allusion to the band members' theater backgrounds. The masterful collection of 14 tracks showcases a definitive voice in unadulterated rock, reminiscent of the 1990s "alternative" sound but laced with enough sing-along sensibility.

Sponge Cola's first two singles "Lunes" and "Jeepney" are still big radio favorites. Notable tracks "Una," "KLSP," "Neon," and "To The Sly and Cunning" are included in this album.

Already hailed by critics as "the band to watch," "the next big thing," and "2004's Eraserheads," the group is made up of four college students from Ateneo—Yael Yuzon, Armo, Gosh, and Chris Cantada—whose songs evoke the turmoil of growing up in a globalized, postmodern world.

Alabang raffle with Nyoy tonight

FRESH from a successful series of shows with "American Idol" finalist Jasmine Trias, Paolo Santos and Jay-R at the Paramount Theater in San Francisco and the Grand Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles, Nyoy Volante and Mannos will treat their fans, to a free Christmas concert dubbed "Nyoy to the World" tonight at 7, at the Polo Field of the Alabang Country Club.

The concert is being held with Alabang Country Club's 14th Super Raffle, where the 26 major prizes include six cars and two round-trip plane tickets to any point in Europe.

Tickets to the show and raffle are priced at P2,000. There will be free shuttle service from the Alabang Town Center to the Alabang Country Club for concert-goers.

The internationally renowned Mandaluyong Children's Choir and pianist Martin Avila are also featured in the concert.

'Neverland' is best film

NEW YORK—"Finding Neverland," a biopic about Peter Pan creator JM Barrie starring Johnny Depp, has been named Best Film by the US National Board of Review (NBR)—widely viewed as a pointer to Oscar success.

Prizes handed out by the NBR, whose membership is a loose amalgam of movie historians and teachers as well as film professionals, herald the opening of the awards season which culminates with the Academy Awards at the end of February.

"Finding Neverland," which also stars Kate Winslet, imagines how Barrie derived the inspiration for his enduring Peter Pan tale.

The film took the number one slot in the NBR's top 10 films of 2004, beating another biopic, Martin Scorcese's "The Aviator" which stars Leonardo DiCaprio as troubled billionaire Howard Hughes.

Jamie Foxx took the Best Actor award for his lead performance in "Ray"—yet another biopic—about the life of the late blues legend, Ray Charles, while Annette Bening was named Best Actress for her role as an aging actress in the 1930s period piece, "Being Julia."

The awards are to be presented on January 11 at a ceremony in New York.

Other notable winners were Michael Mann, who picked up the Best Director award for the Tom Cruise thriller "Collateral" and Charlie Kaufmann, who won Best Original Screenplay for "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

In the foreign film section, Spanish movies took the first two places, with "The Sea Inside," about Ramon Sampedro who fought a 30-year campaign to win the right to end his life, beating out the latest offering from Pedro Almodovar, "Bad Education." *AFP*

JOHNNY Depp, Freddie Highmore in "Finding Neverland"

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4 THE POLAR EXPRESS — 10:30, 12:45, 3:15, 5:45, 8:15, 10:45 — GP

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ALEXANDER R13 12:50,4:00,7:10,10:20
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TIMES — SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
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CINEMA-6 — CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-7 — CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-8 — CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-9 (DTS) — BRIDGET JONES 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) — ALEXANDER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS) — SEED OF CHUCKY
CINEMA-12 — HELLWOLF
CINEMA-14 — PA SIYAM
CINEMA-15 — B CUZ OF U
LORES
CINEMA-2 — SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3 — KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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5 BRIDGET JONES 2 — 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
6 NATIONAL TREASURE — 10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
7 THE INCREDIBLES — 11:40 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40
8 HELLWOLF — 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
9 THE POLAR EXPRESS — 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
10 BCUZ OF U — 11:45 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:00
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2 HELLWOLF — 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:50
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4 SEED OF CHUCKY — 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:25 10:00
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5 NATIONAL TREASURE — 10:55 1:50 4:45 7:40 10:30
6 SEED OF CHUCKY — 10:30 12:05 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:00
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4 BCUZ OF U — 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30
5 BRIDGET JONES 2 — 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
6 THE POLAR EXPRESS — 10:45 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:20
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Jude and Julia, and Clive and Natalie

LAW AND Roberts as beautiful people who do "ugly things" to one another

NEW YORK—Jude Law and Julia Roberts and Clive Owen and Natalie Portman fall giddily in love in "Closer," but don't be fooled: This is the furthest thing possible from a date movie.

These inordinately beautiful people end up doing extraordinarily ugly things to one another—Portman, all grown up and playing a stripper, commits some of her offenses in little more than a G-string—and the way they destroy each other and themselves is both brutal and breathtaking to watch.

The newest film from director Mike Nichols is reminiscent of his first, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" from 1966, for the intensity of its performances and the rawness of its emotions. (Owen is especially scorching as Roberts' cuckolded dermatologist husband.)

"Closer" often has the claustrophobic vibe of a play—which is, in fact, the basis for the film: Patrick Marber adapted his London stage production for the script. And it closes in on melodrama toward the end, but not in a way that's unbelievable. If these people didn't already have drama in their lives, they'd have to manufacture it.

Flirting strangers

Wannabe novelist Dan (Law), whose day job consists of writing obituaries, meets Alice (Portman) in a mesmerizing opening sequence in which the two characters walk toward each other, in slow motion, as strangers flirting from afar on a crowded London street. Suddenly, as Alice steps off the curb to cross the street, she's hit by a car (the young American forgets that traffic flows the opposite way in Britain). When she regains consciousness, the first thing she sees is Dan's flawlessly pretty face, and the two share a playful chemistry in the hospital waiting room and beyond.

Dan, by the way, is Law's "Alfie" character without the Prada wardrobe: He still manages to get whatever he wants simply through his good looks and charm. This makes him an ideal inhabitant of the film's parallel universe, where the regular rules don't apply and people just flirt with each other, pursue each other, fall in instant, insatiable love with each other, cheat on each other and then abandon each other with the eventual intention of getting back together with each other again.

Fast forward

When we see Dan a year later (the film jumps forward in time across a four-year period, and subtly fills in the gaps), he's living with Alice, he's written his novel and he's having his head shot taken for the book jacket by photographer Anna (Roberts, bleached blonde) in her clean, open loft. He kisses her because he feels like it—and the kiss is heart-stopping because it's gentle and passionate at the same time, and because the people doing it are gorgeous.

Dan later dallies online in a sex chat room, where he pretends to be a woman named Anna. (This part feels like a bit of a reach, as if Nichols is trying too hard to be edgy, but it's good for a laugh.) There he meets Larry (Owen), a doctor who's being truthful about his identity, and with whom he engages in incredibly graphic cybersex. The two agree to meet at an aquarium the next day and—whaddya know? Larry shows up and meets the real Anna, and they quickly fall in love.

Subsequent permutations find Anna marrying Larry but having an affair with Dan, and the scene in which she admits her infidelity—and Larry demands all the gory details, although he probably doesn't really want to hear them—is devastating.

Screwed up

"I'm disgusting," Anna whimpers, though she doesn't sound entirely contrite.

"You're phenomenal," Larry responds with awe and venom in his voice. "You're so clever."

Alice moves out when Dan tells her of his affair with Anna and returns to her former life as a stripper. This allows for another painful scene from Larry, who comes in for a lap dance but ends up throwing money at her for information/comfort/you name it— he's so screwed up.

Not much hope seems to exist for these people, even if they can manage to forge some semblance of a happy ending, simply because too much damage has been done. For that reason alone, "Closer" is admirably honest.

Some also have hailed it as being the rare film about romance that's truly for adults. If that's true, I'd rather be a high-school kid again, making out in the back seat of a car, blissful in the thrall of adolescent ignorance.

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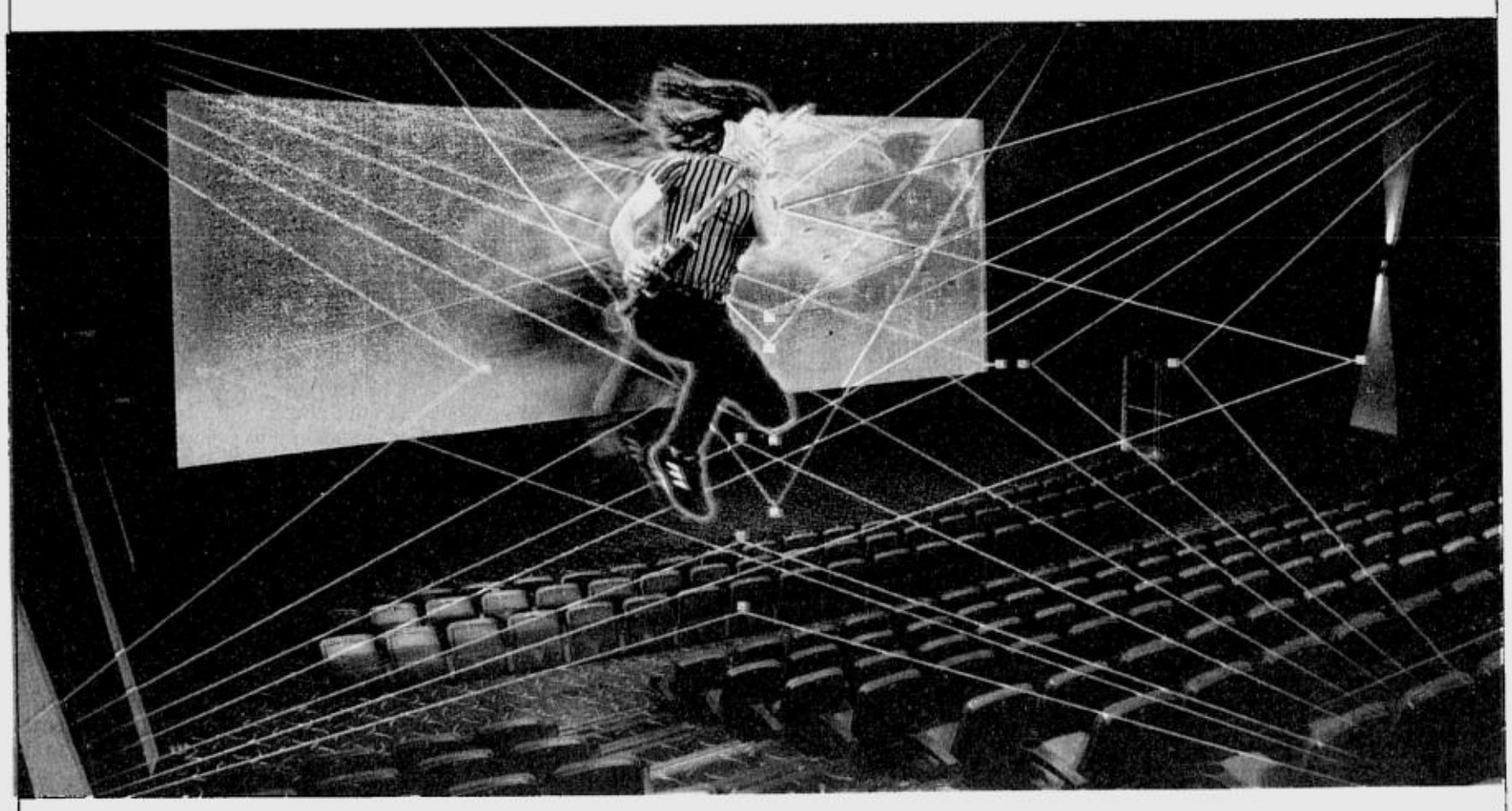

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Ex-mobster now a cop

LOS ANGELES—A mobster will be taking over for a cop on "Law & Order."

Michael Imperioli of "The Sopranos" will appear in the NBC drama while series star Jesse L. Martin, who plays New York police Detective Ed Green, films the musical "Rent," NBC said Thursday.

Imperioli will play a police detective who teams up with his uncle, Detective Joe Fontana (Dennis Farina), in the final episodes of this season.

"I'm glad to be on the right side of the law," Imperioli said in a statement. He won an Emmy this year for his portrayal of mob boss Tony Soprano's hard-luck nephew, Christopher Moltisanti, on HBO's "The Sopranos."

Martin, in his sixth season on "Law & Order," was an original cast member of the Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning "Rent," playing the role of Tom Collins.

He'll return to the TV series next season, Martin and "Law & Order" creator Dick Wolf said in a statement. *AP*

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at least 28 years old; graduate of Interior Design or any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in merchandize purchasing from retail establishments; with exposure in handling merchandising activities such as buying, negotiating with vendors on pricing and product development

LIAISON OFFICER

female, not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4 year business course; good communication and interpersonal skills; extensive experience in legal, corporate and compliance administrative work in a senior level capacity; well-versed with processing of government licenses and permits; willing to do fieldwork

BUDGET ANALYST

with 2 to 3 years work experience in all accounting operations in the same capacity; will be assigned to design, documents and communicate effectively the implementation of the improved workflow of the system; proficient in computer software application; team-player, goal-oriented and able to work under pressure

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

female/male, not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4 year business course; with 2 years experience in site search for commercial spaces; with experience in market research and analysis and preparation of market study; must be in contact with a pool of credible brokers and shopping malls nationwide; willing to go on field assignments most of the time; computer literate and preferably able to drive

Candidates for the position should have the following competencies:

- ✓ excellent communication skills (both verbal and written form)
- ✓ can relate well with all levels of the organization
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- ✓ team player, goal oriented and able to work well under pressure
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- ✓ willing to work on weekends and holidays

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not over 28 years old; graduate of any 4 year business course, with 6 months to 1 year work experience; with strong management skills and proficient in doing business correspondence; possesses the ability to uphold a pleasant corporate image; willing to work on extended hours

OFFICE ASSISTANT

(Human Resources * Accounting * Treasury * Customer Service)

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- Document/update policies and procedures pertinent to the implemented software applications

Job Qualification

- Graduate of Computer Science, Engineering or any 4-year business course
- With at least 2 years experience in applications development and implementation support
- Familiarity with AS/400, RPG/400, Visual Foxpro, Visual Studio, SQL and Networking concepts would be an advantage
- Preferably with exposure to standard software development and project management methodologies
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

PROGRAMMER

Job Description

Will perform technical assignments such as:

- Analysis, design and installation of computerized application systems
- Program coding, systems testing and debugging as required
- Evaluate operational systems do performance tuning or modifications when necessary
- Handle user education and training
- Systems software support
- Assist user in determining information technology needs

Job Qualification

- Not over 30 years old; graduate of 4-year business course
- With strong technical aptitude; with at least 1 year work experience in IT programming preferably in Visual FOXPRO, Visual Studio, NET, SQL, RPG 400
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

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  – Strong presentation skills
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A US-based company is in need of hard-working individuals who would fill position for

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1. Must have at least 3 years field experience in selling automotive parts
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4. Must be a team-player but can work alone without supervision
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Successful applicants will receive an attractive compensation package plus the possibility of being promoted to the corporate office in the USA.

Interested Party must *personally* submit his/her resume' at Bisnes Mami Phils., Inc.
10 Perfecto Drive, Santa Maria Industrial Estate, Bagumbayan. Taguig City, MM
Applications are accepted not later than December 7, 2004 **Tel: 838-4857**

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German Technical Cooperation

JOB VACANCY

SOCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISOR

Starting January 2005, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) will expand its activities to the development of social health insurance (SHI) in Cambodia. For this purpose, GTZ is seeking an experienced and qualified professional to manage the open structuring phase of their Social Health Insurance (SHI) component over the next two years. The SHI component will be part of the ongoing programme. The qualified candidate will be assigned in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Overall objective:
To develop and successfully implement a plan of activities in support of the development of social health insurance in Cambodia, within the framework of the Government's National Health Sector Strategic Plan and the Master Plan for Social Health Insurance in Cambodia.

Responsibility:
Under the supervision of the SHSR Programme Coordinator, be responsible for the implementation of the SHI component of HSRP. This will include the following activities:

- To work closely with Cambodian partners and other international development agencies to create awareness and understanding about the concept of SHI
- To explore possibilities for pilot-testing health insurance schemes in the salaried and non-salaried sectors
- Develop a programme of operational research in support of activities and document lessons learned

Required qualifications and experience:
- Degree in economics or social sciences, preferably with a Masters in Public Health/ Public Administration
- Understanding of health financing and health systems development
- Proven experience with Social Health Insurance approaches

Skills and competencies:
- Effective in networking and liasing activities
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Demonstrated writing skills
- Ability to work in a team

Applicants must be at least 30 years of age and have a minimum of five years working experience in a similar position, preferably with an international organisation. They must be fluent in English and possess good analytical and problem solving skills.

Please email GTZ for a full job description and application form: info@shigtz.philhealth.gov.ph The vacancy is a contract position for two years with a possibility for extension, offering salary and other benefits as per GTZ regulations.

Closing date: Thursday 9th December 2004

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A medium-sized commercial bank is in need of a dynamic, self-driven individual for the position of:

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- *Expanding trade-related portfolio of the bank (LC's DA's export financing, etc.)*
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Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

BOILER TECHNICIAN
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- Not more than 40 years of age
- With drivers license

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150 P. Tuazon Ave., cor. EDSA, Q.C.
Tel. No. 421-1195

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
• Female below 27 years old • Graduate of at least a 2-year diploma or certificate course • Proficient in MS Office applications • Familiar with personal computers syetems • Excellent in English • Pleasing personality

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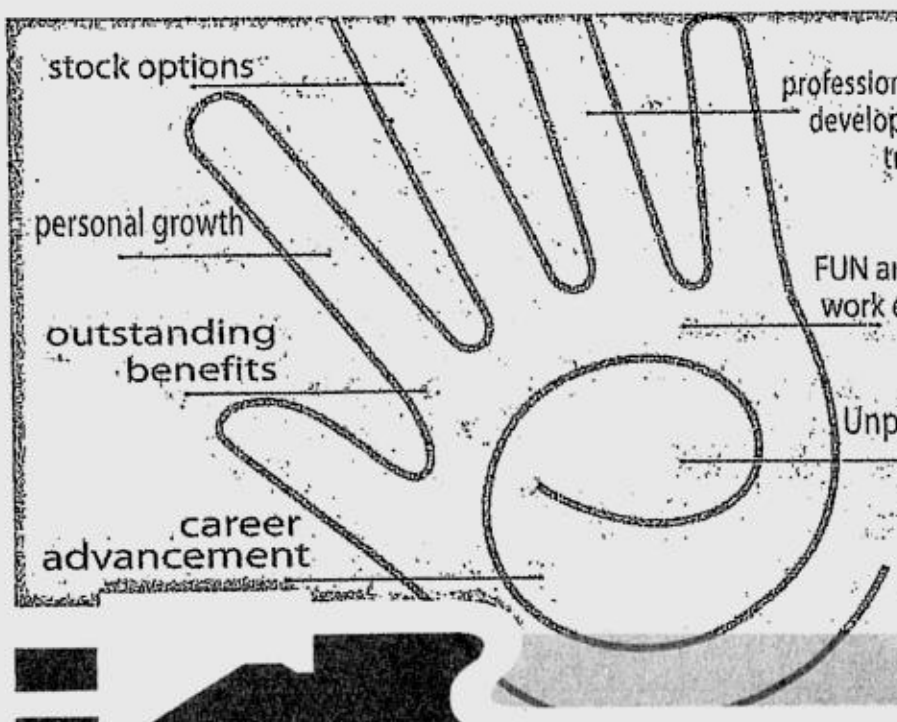

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Requirements: B.S. Degree in Computer Science, Information Systems, or other related field. 2+ years hands on experience and knowlede with Avaya CMS, CentreVu, Definity, ASAI, PBX/ACD operation in inbound/Outbound Call Center. Experience and knowledge with CTI, ICM, IEX, LAN/WAN, IP-Based networking, and Dialer is preferred. Hands on experience in creating CMS custom reports. Working knowledge in Unix Operating System and Informix Database.

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Prepare and/or continuously develop a comprehensive communications training program that focuses on fostering effective communication skills in the contact center environment (i.e. speech skills, written and spoken grammar, listening comprehension, and customer contact skills).
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Ensure that the training for client-specific courses is planned and executed in a professional manner in accordance with PeopleSupport standards, values and goals.
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Network Engineer

Provide daily support, maintenance and administration of the company's network infrastructure equipment and all related network engineering systems, in a manner that minimizes office and business interruptions.
Requirements: B.S. Degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or Electronics and Communications Engineering or Technical Certification in administering Microsoft Windows environment or equivalent experience; CCIE, CCNA or equivalent certification; 4+ years experience with Cisco Equipment - hands-on administration experience with high end Cisco Routers, Switches and Firewalls; Proven ability to engineer local and wide-area networks from the ground up.

Management Development Trainer

Responsible for initial and ongoing supervisor training, and assisting in the Management Development program.
Requirements: B.S. Degree, 2+ years training experience on software, customer service skills, sales skills, and/or management skills, experience with lesson plans and curriculum development, strong working knowledge of adult educational concepts, excellent training and presentation skills, excellent English communication skills, great people skills, great interviewing skills, acute sense of professionalism and confidentiality.

Systems Accountant

Provide and coordinate accounting system support and maintenance for the finance department.
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Systems Analyst Programmer

Key requirements
- College degree in Computer Science, Business/Accounting courses with Application/ Programming training
- 3 years and above IT experience in system analysis, design, development, post implementation support)
- Strong business and accounting function skills in Manufacturing, Distribution, Trading, Retail, Service (consulting) sectors
- Consulting experience an advantage
- Knowledge on Visual Basic version 6, ASP.Net and Visual Basic .Net, SQL Server 2000, Crystal Report version 6.5 and above, Delphi version 3/5, XML
- Knowledge on the following an advantage: Adobe PhotoShop and Dreamweaver Macro Media Flash MX, implementation of Web-based program and deployment.

Other requirements
- Team player
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Excellent organizational skills
- Easy to work with
- Committed to delivering concrete quality output
- Exposed to interfacing with all levels of an organization.

* Successful candidates must be able to start right away.

Executive Assistant

- University degree, preferably business-related course
- At least 3-year relevant experience
- Proficient typing skills and familiar with MS Office
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours

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Makati City, Philippines 1226

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Safeway Inc. is one of the largest food and drug retailers in North America. It operates more than 1,800 stores in Western, Southwestern, Rocky Mountain, and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States and in Western Canada. In support of its stores, Safeway has an extensive network of distribution, manufacturing and food processing facilities.

Over the past year, Safeway Philtech Inc. has employed over 180 skilled employees. We are committed to building not only business solutions but also career options for our people. We offer career opportunities at every level, allowing each individual to explore new technologies and obtain experience in variety of applications.

The opportunity for growth depends on one's ambition to drive to succeed. Safeway Philtech Inc. is committed to your success by providing you with all the opportunities and training you need to feel challenged as well as the support you need to succeed. We guide our employees in exploring their options and mapping out their own paths for success.

Continuos improvement, quality rapid growth, innovation are the words used to describe the company. These words also characterized the employees who work together in providing high quality results. We are continuously looking for people who will help us lead the way. We challenge you to join us in building tomorrow today.

To support our operations, we are looking for highly motivated and energetic IT professionals to assume the following positions.

Application Support Job Requirements

Candidates are preferred to have a bachelors' degree in Computer Science or other related field or have attained a minimum of 3 years I.T. work experience in application support or maintenance. Must have sound technical analysis and problem solving skills. Uphold strong interpersonal qualities and has genuine desire to provide superior customer service to our I.T. customers. Have excellent written and oral communication skills.

Mainframe
- Mainframe, Cobol, CICS, DB2, QMF, JCL, VSAM, TSO, CA7

Web/Java/Unix
- Java, J2EE, Unix, Web

Security Administrator
- Administration and Security background.
- Knowledgeable in Mainframe, RACF, Unix, Windows, Databases, Directory Servers and Applications to implement access requests.

EDI
- Minimum 2 to 3 years of application support experience on mainframe MVS, midrange or equivalent systems.
- Experience with EDI translator applications or third party packages (e.g., GENTRAN).
- Mainframe programming skills in COBOL, MVS JCL/Utilities, CICS, and job scheduling (CA7 or the equivalent).
- Experience with Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) or the UCS Grocery Industry Standard.
- Experience with installing, maintaining, or using complex vendor packages (especially Sterling Software's GENTRAN:Basic, GENTRAN:Plus, Connect:Enterprise, and Connect:Direct)
- Exposure to Procurement and/or Accounting/Financial applications.
- Exposure to web-based e-commerce systems.
- Experience with midrange platforms such as the AS400 and NT servers.

Helpdesk
- Minimum 6 months work experience in a Call Center and with excellent communication skills. Knowledge in basic PC troubleshooting is an advantage.

Application Development Job Requirements

Candidates are preferred to have a bachelors' degree in Computer Science or other related field or have attained a minimum of 5 years I.T. work experience in application development. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills. Have the desire to learn new skills, technologies and adapt to new information demands. Should have the ability to multi-task on many projects and priorities and be able to handle situations that may come with delivery of critical applications. Applicants must be results oriented, willing to take responsibility and accept accountability for action. He or she must be a creative thinker in terms of diagnosing and troubleshooting problems, identifying and developing methods to automate/improve new/existing procedures.

Java Developer
- Minimum 5 years application development experience on Java, JSP, Servlet, DB2 and Windows NT
- Minimum 3 years work experience in Web Development using Java.
- Experience in Time and Attendance application is an advantage
- Must have an experience in developing web applications and accessing DB2

Systems Administrator
- 2 years experience Unix System administration in large multi-server environments, Solaris and AIX experience required and Shell-scripting ability is required.
- Experience with DB2/UDBB, Informix or Teradata, Legato, Veritas products, Websphere, MQ Series, BMC PATROL, Control-M or Control-SA, or iplanet products will all be advantageous

Retail Quality Assurance

RQA Tester
- Must have at least 6 months work experience in software QA testing.
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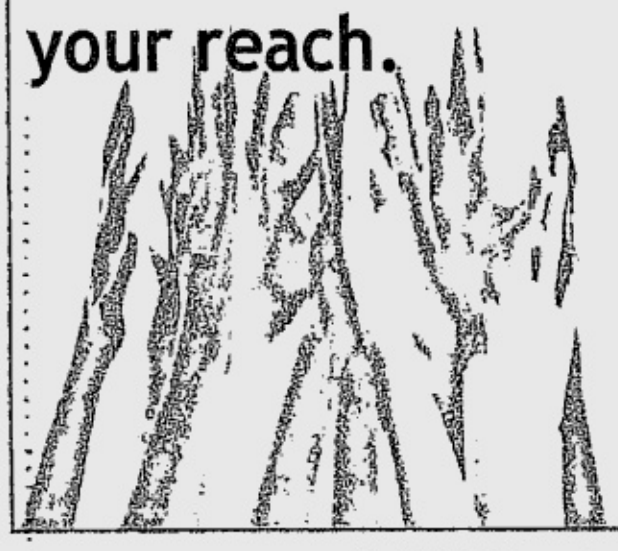
AIG Business Processing Services, Inc.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL GROUP, INC. (AIG) is a Fortune 500 company and the world's leading international insurance and financial services organization, with operations in approximately 130 countries.

AIG member companies serve commercial, institutional and individual customers through the most extensive worldwide property-casualty and life insurance networks of any insurer. AIG's global businesses also include financial services, retirement savings and asset management. The common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, as well as the stock exchanges in London, Paris, Switzerland and Tokyo.

AIG Business Processing Services, Inc. (AIG-BPSI) is a business process outsourcing (BPO) company serving the needs of AIG American General Life Insurance Companies. AIG-BPSI invites you to be part of its pioneering and fast-growing operations. Successful candidates will undergo intensive training and can look forward to a financially rewarding and enriching career.

Success is within your reach.



We're looking for an

Administration Director

The Administration Director is responsible for the administrative, finance and systems functions including BCP management and shared services for BPSI. These will be consistent with AIG and Philam standards, and the manager will liaise with those organizations to ensure coherence.

The role is likely to require a split of time at 50% on finance and accounting; 30% on administration, and 20% on I.T. Key focus areas for finance include management accounting and analyses, and ensuring that procedures are both efficient and effective. For administration, the focus is on purchasing, building management, and shared service provision from Philam group. For I.T., focus is management of the helpdesk and other I.T. support functions.

The role will include the set up of the departmental processes with sustainable and documented procedures going forward.

Job Requirements

- Manage the financial accounting and reporting functions for BPSI, including financial and statutory reporting; financial control, and management accounting
- Manage the finance department performance and timetables to ensure effective financial and management accounting
- Manage community and government relations
- Oversee local systems and computer issues
- Participate in business planning and management, and manage execution plans as directed from time to time
- Ability to manage multiple departments
- Ability to work in conditions of ambiguity
- Understanding of the US financial services, customer management and BPO/Contact Center success factors
- Good leadership skills and ability to motivate front-line employees Demonstrated skills at organizational and customer service planning and successfully executing against the plans.
- Demonstrated leadership skills by providing direction, gaining commitment and inspiring various levels of associates and business partners
- Demonstrated experience managing process and/or systems change
- Experience managing in a multi-client environment
- Experience managing line employees in Philippines
- Ability to work effectively across language and cultural barriers with US customers
- Understanding of financial aspects of running a business unit, with particular reference to strategic planning, problem solving, and integration of information
- Strong negotiation, planning, organizing and control skills
- Minimum four year college degree with CPA qualification
- At least 10 years prior experience required with at least 5 in management

Please submit your resume with 2x2 picture and TOR at the 8th Floor Philamlife Building, 1207 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City or email us your resume at BPSI-APPLICANTS@AIG.COM.

PRIME STARS INT'L PROMOTION CORP.

POEA License No. 387-LB-012604-R

MANILA OFFICE
#1923 San Marcelino St., Malate Manila
Philippines 1004
Tel. Nos.: (02) 404-0949/
Fax No.: (02) 338-2818

CEBU CITY BRANCH OFFICE
#59-B Maria Cristina St., M. Yap
extension Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 255-9950
Fax No.:(032) 2559948

IMMEDIATE HIRING

Interview dates: DECEMBER 5-7, 2004

AU OPTRONICS CORPORATION

– (85 slots) Registry#10017175

Located at N0.23 Li-Hsin Rd. Science Based Industrial Park Hsin Chu City Taiwan R.O.C.

Product: TFT – LCD

MALE & FEMALE Production Operator

QUALIFICATIONS:

MALE: 165 cm in height and above; FEMALE = 155 cm, AGE 20-35 years old; Vocational or College Graduate: Weight proportionate to height: With good eye sight: Fast learner and has a sense of initiative and urgency. EX-Taiwan workers are welcome to apply!! With Knowledge in operating electronic type of machines is an edge. Operators such as SMT,SMD, Testing, Quality Inspector, Insertion, Soldering, Wire Bond, Die Bond, IC Testing, Vaccum Packing ,F/T operators, Maintenance, PCB Drilling, Exposure, Lamination, Plating, Q.C., Repair, and Analysis will be given priority.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS *KINDLY BRING THE FOLLOWING FOR IMMEDIATE LINE-UP:*
1. PASSPORT *4. SCHOOL CREDENTIALS (Diploma / Transcript of Record)*
2. BIRTH CERTIFICATE *5. NBI Clearance*
3. PCS VALID I.D.'s
***ANY UNAVAILABLE DOCUMENTS TO FOLLOW except PASSPORT AND BIRTH CERTIFICATE*

DRESS CODE: WHITE SHIRT / BLOUSE / POLO.

"BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS"

TAIKISHA PHILIPPINES INC.

a local subsidiary of a global Japanese engineering and construction firm

is in need of the following:

Mechanical Engineers (Piping)

- With at least 5 years work experience in piping works in a construction company
- Must be a registered Mechanical Engineer Mechanical Engineers (Ducting)
- With at least 5 years work experience in ducting works in a construction company
- Must be a registered Mechanical Engineer Mechanical Engineers (Fire Protection)
- With at least 5 years work experience in fire protection works in a construction company
- Must be a registered Mechanical Engineer

Electrical Engineer

- With at least 5 years work experience in an electro-mechanical construction company
- Must be a registered Electrical Engineer

Plumbing Engineer

- With at least 10 years work experience in a supervisory level for a mechanical construction firm

Purchaser

- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With experience in material procurement for construction

Safety Supervisor

- Graduate of any Engineering course
- Must be an accredited DOLE-BWC Safety Practitioner
- With at least 5 years work experience in a construction firm

Draftsman

- Graduate of any Engineering course or other related fields
- At least 3 years work experience in mechanical, electrical and architectural drawings

Quality Assurance/Quality Control Engineer

- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With at least 5 years work experience as QA/QC in a construction firm

Administrative Manager

- With at least 5 years relevant work experience

Asst. Administrative Manager

- With at least 3 years relevant work experience

Other Qualification Requirements for all positions:

- Not more than 45 years old
- Preferably with overseas employment experience
- Must be able to communicate well with Filipino and Foreigner superiors
- Must be willing to be assigned in either projects anywhere in the Philippines or in overseas projects being implemented by Taikisha group of companies

Submit comprehensive bio-data, 2 x 2 photo, transcript of records and records of previous employment to:

TAIKISHA PHILIPPINES, INC.
2nd Floor, Urban Building
405 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
ATTENTION: PERSONNEL DIVISION
Email Address: tpiper@taikisha.com.ph

ISA Management Services
New Zealand Immigration Consultancy

2nd Floor Marikina East Centre Bldg. Mayor Gil Fernando Avenue
San Roque, Marikina City

944-0014/944-0031
0917-5343047
isaservices@pacific.net.ph

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Join the January batch and 2005 batches of nurses who will undergo the Competency Assessment Programme. If you have all the requirements or preparing to complete with the New Zealand Nursing Council, please see us now!

CGFNS passer (with certificate not later than year 2002)
IELTS (academic) Band 6.5 for application before 01 Feb 2004
IELTS (academic) Band 7 without grades below 6.5 for reading and writing after 02 February applications

We also offer assistance for your training cost!

WE ARE NOT A RECRUITMENT AGENCY

Other professionals are also invited:

Engineers
Teachers
Tradespeople
Dieticians
and those included in the Occupational Shortage List and Priority Occupational List!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LOW PASSMARK!

We are a growing glass processing company that has a job opportunity for the following position:

One (1) Marketing Assistant

The candidate must possess the following qualifications:

- Male or female not more than 26 years old
- Graduate of Marketing
- 2 years experience along the lines of market planning and implementation
- Very good command of spoken and written English
- Analytical
- People oriented
- Pleasing personality and ability to work under pressure

Interested candidates should send their resumés with pictures via email to: **alndv@yahoo.com**

FASTPAK GLOBAL EXPRESS CORPORATION
is in immediate hiring of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- ☐ Male or female
- ☐ Between 25 to 30 years of age
- ☐ Graduate of a four-year course, preferably marketing or business related course
- ☐ Experience or background in sales and marketing
- ☐ Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- ☐ Enjoys interacting with people and possess good leadership
- ☐ Aggressive and hardworking
- ☐ Skilled in time management and organization techniques
- ☐ Excellent computer skills (word, excel, Powerpoint, internet, web, email)
- ☐ Knows how to drive with valid driver's license
- ☐ Experience in events planning
- ☐ Budgeting background

Interested applicants may send their application letters and resume to HR Department care of Ms. Erlinda B. Mananghaya, or, may email to lbmananghaya@fastgroup.biz.

A dynamic, fast growing Pharmaceutical Company invites applicants for the position of:

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

- 21 to 25 years old
- Male or female
- College graduate
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines
- With or without experience
- With pleasing personality

Applicants are requested to call the office for schedule of interview. Please call 631-4674 or 633-2841 from 9 am to 5 pm on December 6-7 and 13-14, 2004. Applicants scheduled for interview must bring comprehensive resumé, diploma, transcript of records and passport size photo.

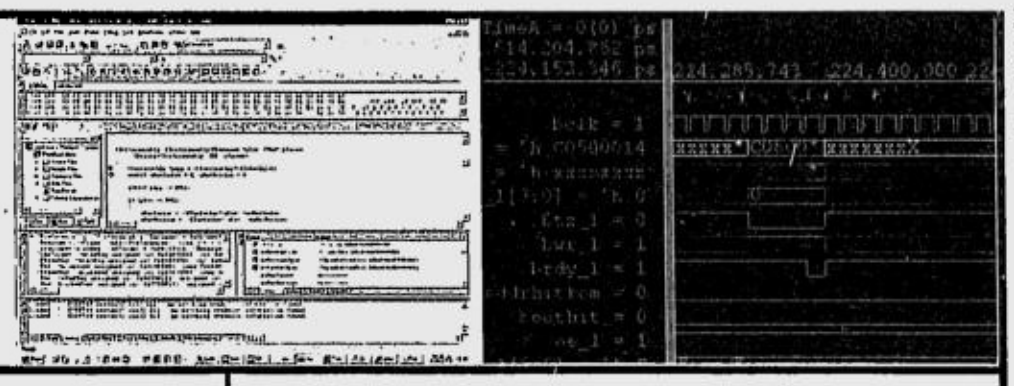
WANTED IMMEDIATELY
SALES ACCOUNT REPRESENTATIVE

- College graduate with experience in canned food manufacturing preferred but not essential
- Fluent in English & Tagalog
- Not more than 33 years of age
- Hardworking, results oriented and with pleasing personality
- With valid driver's license

Apply in person with resumé and ID photo at:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
ORIENTAL TIN CAN & METAL SHEET MFG.
64 Gen. Luis St., Sitio Kapre,
Brgy. Nagkalsang Nayon,
Area IX, District II, Quezon City

Canon



Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc. (ci-tech), one of Canon's largest Product R&D center in the world, develops products and technologies for imaging and networking. Located in Manila's premier Information Technology center, the company is home to the country's best Software, Hardware and QA engineers. We seek to recruit engineers for our current and future projects. The positions offer excellent technical and managerial career options for dynamic candidates. Comprehensive training programs and overseas travel opportunities await qualified employees. An attractive compensation package will be offered.

Hardware Design & Verification Engineers

- Graduate of Computer Engineering, Electronics Engineering, Electrical Engineering or any related course
- Responsible for design and verification of integrated circuits (IC), VLSI, and ASIC for use on controller boards
- Responsible for Register Transfer Level (RTL) design and verification, design modeling and evaluation
- Knowledgeable in computer architecture, electronic circuits, logic design, and microelectronics

Software Engineers

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, IT or any related course
- Responsible for software development for future Canon products such as printers, copiers, and digital cameras
- Must have strong programming skills using C, C++, and Java
- Knowledgeable in algorithms, data structures and operating system concepts

Quality Assurance Engineers (Software Testing)

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, IT or any related course
- Responsible for conducting software testing, test planning, and test scripting
- Must have strong computer operation skills especially in various Microsoft Windows platforms and applications
- Persistent and with strong attention to detail

Please send a copy of your comprehensive resume with recent passport-size photo and Transcript of Records to

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.
Human Resources Department
2nd Floor Techno Plaza One, 18 Orchard Road
Eastwood, Quezon City 1110

Or e-mail your resume and Transcript of Records to recruitment@citech.com.ph

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WANTED

*** Instructors for Cert. in Food & Beverage Service**

*** Instructors for Cert. in Housekeeping**

STI COLLEGE CALOOCAN
365-65-49 / 361-51-85 Look for **Ms. Donna Ancheta**

STI COLLEGE CUBAO
911-18-24 / 912-03-72 Look for **Ms. Ana Fronda**

STI COLLEGE NOVALICHES
936-03-68 / 936-03-61 Look for **Ms. Chit Arciaga**

EASTBAY HOTEL & CASINO

near Antipolo, Rizal

We're looking for intelligent, goal-oriented and dedicated individuals for various positions in our new Hotel & Resort facility

Male & Female
21 to 28 years old

For interview appointments, call

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9am to 12pm
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INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Manila branch is open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.

G/F TRINITY BLDG.,
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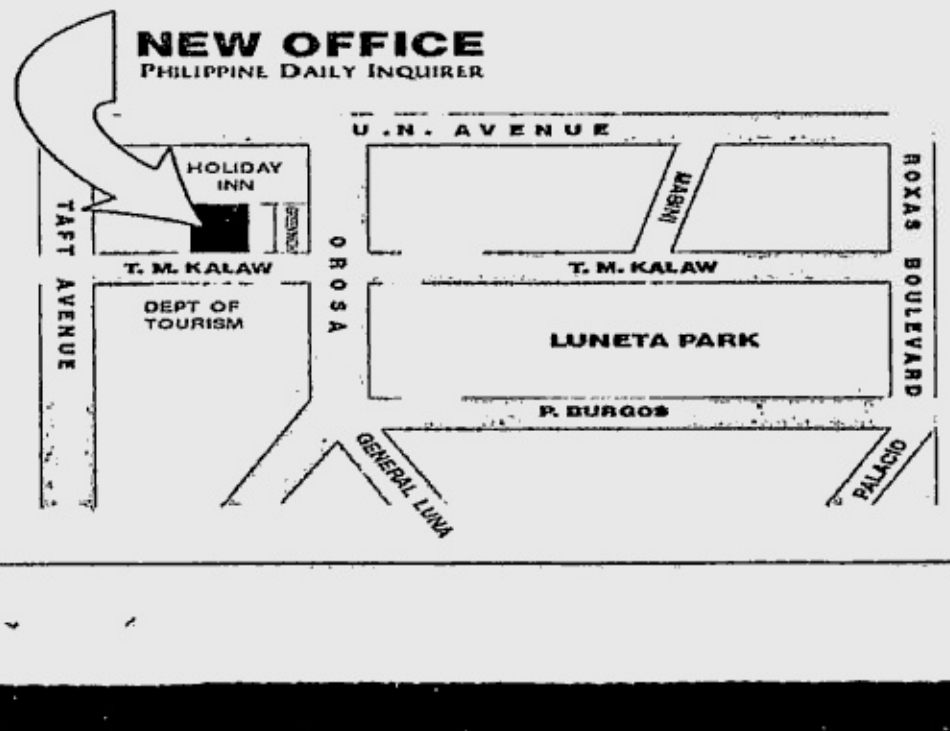
Call BABES, ERIC or GRIG at TEL. NO.: 527-3342 / 522-4406

NEW OFFICE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



URGENTLY NEEDED!
MARKETING / OFFICE ASSISTANT

- Must be a graduate of Marketing or Advertising
- Good in graphics, creative, computer literate
- Female, with good communication skills

TELCORA LTD. – www.telcora.com
31-J Mayon St Boni Ave Mandaluyong
Tel # 534-6260 Email RP@telcora.com

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS BUT ONCE

JOB Market — Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Associate Accounting Analyst

The position supervises and coordinates administrative functions; establishes, monitors, and maintains accounting records and sound accounting/internal controls in supporting financial reporting; assists in developing ADB's accounting policies and procedures by monitoring accounting and industry developments; and prepares financial statements and related accounting reports.

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Financial Control Specialist, Financial Reporting and Analysis Section (CTAC-FRA), Controller's Department (CTL).

Description of Responsibilities

- Supervises and reviews the work of subordinate staff in controlling, processing, monitoring, and recording accounting data accurately and timely; trains and develops subordinate's knowledge and skills through daily work; and provides technical and procedural guidelines to subordinate administrative staff;
- Prepares or contributes to financial statements and other reports and ensures reports are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles practiced in the US, and are timely and accurate; assists in various financial analysis to monitor and report on the financial position of ADB;
- Reviews, analyzes and identifies computer requirements for effective and efficient processing and reporting; ensures accuracy and reliability of systems; and initiates or proposes enhancements;
- Establishes, maintains and ensures appropriate and adequate controls in preparing and maintaining accounting data, processing transactions and preparing reports; recommends changes and improvements to ensure that accurate, complete and timely accounting data and reports are prepared and maintained in compliance with ADB policies and practices and generally accepted accounting principles;
- Monitors account balances to ensure appropriate accounting treatments are applied and respective statements/reports are received and reconciled timely and regularly; prepares and verifies, as appropriate, reconciliation reports of accounts; undertakes initial investigation of discrepancies and issues for review by supervisor; compiles, analyzes and reviews financial and accounting data as a basis for the preparation of reports; ensures the accuracy, consistency and propriety of supporting documentation for all claims, payments and other accounting transactions in compliance with accounting practices, established procedures and guidelines, and ADB policies;
- Monitors accounting and industry developments to coordinate and assist in developing and publishing accounting and related financial policies for ADB; provides guidance and monitors accounting entries and treatments used by various accounting areas to ensure appropriate accounting standards, policies, and practices are consistently applied in ADB; works with various accounting areas to assist and provide guidance in developing consistent accounting procedures, in line with the accounting policies;
- Coordinates and provides required information in accordance with established procedures, in a tactful manner; and
- Prepares draft memoranda and external correspondence for supervisors' review; performs any other assignments as required.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level;
- a bachelor's degree in Business Administration, major in Accounting; Certified Public Accountant designation;
- at least five years accounting experience in a computerized environment with some supervisory role in a large multinational financial organization;
- good understanding of generally accepted accounting concepts and principles applicable to financial instruments and multinational organizations with multi-currency environment;
- good understanding of a multilateral institution's accounting and financial policies, practices, procedures, guidelines, and reporting requirements;
- good understanding of the business process work flows of related areas and the interaction among them to enable accounting concepts to be applied appropriately;
- good knowledge of a large accounting system, preferably Oracle applications;
- proficiency in application software such as Oracle, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word and in the use of computer databases to extract information, and to generate standard and ad hoc financial reports;
- ability to plan and coordinate schedules and requirements in order to meet deadlines;
- proven supervisory and interpersonal skills, and ability to provide feedback to subordinate support staff;
- strong analytical, systematic and numerical skills and great attention to detail; and
- excellent oral and written skills in English.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS04-168(4)-CTAC-FRA** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **10 December 2004.**

Human Resources Division
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

ADB

Fighting Poverty in Asia and the Pacific

Asian Development Bank's overarching goal is to reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of people in the Asian & Pacific region.

Associate Business Systems Auditor

The position is primarily responsible for assisting Financial, Administrative, and Information Systems Division (OAGF) professional staff in the ADB-wide conduct of financial, administrative and operational audits with an emphasis on Treasury and other commercial banking products, maintenance of working papers and records; preparation of the initial draft report and final report. In some cases the incumbent will be responsible for executing entire audits under the supervision of one professional staff or Director, OAGF.

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports directly to one or more professional staff of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG).

Description of Responsibilities

Audit Strategy, Approach and Techniques:

- Contributing to the efficient and timely conduct of audits by developing or assisting in developing flexible audit plans, schedules and questionnaires on the basis of preliminary evaluation of qualitative, informative and statistical data in the audit area.
- Providing support in developing a suitable audit program to address defined audit objectives, and
- Participating in formulating sampling procedures and techniques.

Audit Execution:

- Executing or assisting in the execution of audits in accordance with a suitable and approved audit program to assess compliance with existing policies, systems and procedures, including contracts and arrangements, and identifying deficiencies and weaknesses in internal controls by examining and analyzing existing computer and manual records, reports and any other supporting documentation, and
- Verifying and discussing any deficiencies or deviations identified with auditees.

Audit Report Preparation:

- Ensuring the preparation of comprehensive and concise audit reports containing findings that describe the type and nature of deviations or deficiencies;
- Formulating recommendations and measures for administrative and procedural improvements;
- Discussing draft reports with auditee departments/offices, and
- Monitoring the status of recommendations and conducting the periodic follow-up regarding their status.

Assistance to External Auditors:

- Conducting the examinations of selected transaction in specific areas to assist the ADB's External Auditors in the audit of the ADB's Financial Statements

Audit Missions and Other Duties:

- Participating in the preparation of mission papers. Performing other duties as may be assigned.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level,
- a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with major in Accounting or Business Administration; and qualification as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Internal Auditor,
- at least five years experience in internal audit or risk management of financial institutions or other large organizations; or similar relevant work in a CPA firm,
- thorough understanding of auditing principles and techniques as well as management reporting systems; working knowledge of computer audit tools and standard computer software;
- thorough understanding of principles of internal control systems; an understanding of Treasury products and their risks is highly desirable;
- strong analytical and organizational skills. Ability to take a body of data and information, and organize the component ideas into a logical sequence for written and/or oral presentation, taking into account the need to express the overall concepts clearly and explain the sometimes complex interrelationships among the findings and recommendations; ability to determine which details are appropriate to include, and which should be omitted, based on the intended purpose, scope and audience of the presentation; ability to present the resulting information in clear, concise, grammatical English, either orally or in writing as the situation may require, and
- ability to meet and interact with auditees organization-wide and work as a team member in OAG, an ability to obtain the cooperation and assistance of auditees, convey audit findings unemotionally and without personal criticism, and an ability to draft initial recommendations that will address audit concerns, take account of the resources available to the auditee and be compatible with related auditee operations.

Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside the Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS04-180(3)-OAGF** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **10 December 2004.**

Human Resources Division
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789, 0980 Manila, Philippines

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

ROVI MULTI-PRODUCTS, INC.

Is in need of the following qualified personnel

- **Plant Manager**
  - Must be an Electro-Mechanical Engineering graduate
  - Knowledge in hydraulic pumps, electric motors and heating elements
  - Experience in wood processing operations is an advantage
  - Computer Literate with Knowledge in MS WORD and EXCEL
  - Will be sent to China for training in Machines operations.
  - Must have valid passport
- **Plant Quality Control Engineer**
  - Electro-Mechanical Engineering graduate
  - 5 years experience in plant operation and quality control
  - Knowledge in wood products production is an advantage
  - Computer Literate with Knowledge in MS WORD and EXCEL
  - Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license
- **Site Engineers**
  - Architectural or Engineering graduate
  - Preferably with experience in site construction
  - Computer literacy in MS WORD, EXCEL CADD is an advantage.
  - Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license
- **Warehouse Man**
  - With experience in on-site construction and in-house warehousing
  - Computer Literacy in MS Word and Excel is an advantage
- **Company Electrician**
  - With experience in building and machineries electrical installations
  - Motor rewinding and minor tools repair
- **Wood and Laminate Flooring Installers**
  - With experience in solid engineered and laminate flooring installation
  - Can work long hours with minimum supervision
- **Hot / Cold Press Operator**
  - College level or Vocational level
  - With experience in operation of cold and hot press for plywood manufacturing and also operation of glue spreaders
- **Wood Molder / Bandsaw Operators**
  - At least College Level or Vocational Graduate
  - With experience in wood molder and bandsaw machine operations
- **Sales Manager and Sales Executives**
  - College Graduate and experienced in sales of architectural products such as floorings, doors and windows, lights, etc.
  - be assigned specific areas for sales saturation
  - Computer literate in MS WORD and EXCEL
  - Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license
- **Accounting Supervisor and Accounting Assistant**
  - College Graduate, major in accounting
  - Must have excellent knowledge in accounting and Auditing works
  - Knowledge of MS WORD, EXCEL and MYOB
- **Secretary / Executive Assistant**
  - Female 22 years old and above ; Graduate of any four-year course
  - Minimum experience of two (2) years as executive assistant
  - With excellent communication skills
  - Computer Literate (MS WORD, EXCEL, INTERNET)

Interested parties may send their application by snail mail, email, fax or delivered in person to...
7828 Beachwood St. Phase II, Marcelo Green Village, Paranaque City
Fax: (02) 823-5203 Email: rovimultiproducts@yahoo.com

THOMSON™

THOMSON FINANCIAL is a US$1.5 Billion provider of information and technology solutions to the worldwide financial community. Through the widest range of products and services in the industry, Thomson Financial helps clients in approximately 130 countries make better decisions, be more productive and achieve superior results. Thomson Financial is part of the Thomson Corporation (www.thomson.com), a leading provider of value-added information, software tools and applications to more than 20 million users in the fields of law, tax, accounting, financial services, higher education, reference information, corporate training and assessment, scientific research and healthcare.

ANALYSTS (English and Bi-linguals)

We are seeking for individuals who are interested to pursue a career in research and analysis of financial data. Preferably graduates of business-related courses, open to new graduates. Should be fluent in both written and spoken English. Proficiency in Microsoft Office programs and Internet usage is needed. Should be detail oriented, self-motivated and should have good problem solving and customer service skills. Candidate must be able to demonstrate the ability to handle multiple priorities and must be willing to work in shifts.

We are also in need of Bi-lingual Analysts who are fluent in any of the following foreign languages: ***Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Norwegian, Scandinavian, German, Italian, French, Cantonese, Mandarin, Japanese and Korean.***

If you are ready to take the challenge and work in a dynamic company, please send your application letter together with your résumé, indicating your expected salary, transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo on or before **03 December 2004** to:

The Human Resources Group
The Thomson (Philippines) Corporation
20th Floor, Ayala Life-FGU Center
6811 Ayala Ave.
1200 Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@tfn.com

We offer an attractive remuneration package, a five-day work week, retirement plan, allowances, annual leave days, medical, dental and life insurance coverage.

Only short listed applicants will be notified. Resumes will be filed for future reference and handled in the strictest confidence. Previous applicants need not apply.

A Domestic RORO Passenger vessel serving the STRONG REPUBLIC NAUTICAL HIGHWAY:

WELCOMES APPLICANTS FOR:

- **Deck Officers,** with training in Crowd & Crisis Management & Safe Navigation & Collision Regulations.
- **Engine Officers, Ratings and Cadets,** with training in Crowd & Crisis Management. Engine Officers must be familiar for Niigata, Daihatsu, Wichman & Normo Diesel made engine.

Applicants for the above positions must be familiar with RORO/Passenger vessel and preferably with experience in domestic route; training in ISM Code is an advantage.

- **Operations Manager,** 30 – 50 years old; with experience in domestic shipping, dry-docking and logistics; knowledgeable in PPA, PCG & MARINA Rules and Regulations.
- **Technical Engr./Asst.,** with experience in vessel, ship maintenance repair and dry-docking; is familiar with Japanese-made engines and willing to be on provincial assignments.

Qualified applicants may send or submit their resume to:

THE PERSONNEL
7th Flr Mapfre Asian Corporate Center,
Acacia Ave.,Madrigal Business Park,
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. No.775-0441

sportshouse

is in need of SPORTS ACTIVE and DYNAMIC individuals for the following positions:

Asst Category Manager:

Job Profile:
Analyze the category and market to ensure constant improvement / evaluation of product category and to develop the marketing and product strategy of the respective category.

Qualifications:
- Bachelor's degree (B.A.) from four-year-college or university in Marketing / Business. Experience may take place of a degree.
- 2-3 years Product Management
- knowledge of Sporting Goods Industry
- good numerical skills with the ability to negotiate
- ability to multi-task in a changing environment.

Store Supervisor:
Male : at least 5'6 and College Graduate
Female : at least 5'3 and College Graduate (experience is an advantage)

Sales Demo:
Male : at least 5'6" and 3rd year college level
Female : at least 5'3" and 3rd year college level

Cashier:
Female : at least 5'3" and 3rd year college level

Please send your resumé with 2x2 picture at:
Sportshouse Training Department
c/o Lino's Restaurant, 3rd Floor,
Ali Mall, Cubao Quezon City

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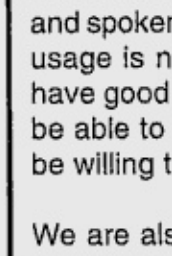

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A Philippine company, internationally recognized as a leader in information management services with approximately 400 employees, is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of

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The selected candidate shall report directly to the General Manager and be a member of the executive management team. That candidate shall oversee all aspects of the human resource function and shall, among other things, be responsible for employee relations including the hiring process, statutory benefits, training and bonus plans as well as development of all personnel policies and programs. The company is in an expansion mode and offers opportunity for the selected candidate to hire new HR staff as well as management positions elsewhere in the company

The successful candidate shall:

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- possess a minimum of 5 to 10 years in an HR supervisory position, preferably in the information management services sector
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- earn a competitive compensation package
- be ready to assume the position by January 1, 2005.

Interested individuals may send, by mail or personal delivery during office hours, their applications-including comprehensive resume, transcript of scholastic record and 2x2 photograph ÷ to HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER, 32/F LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City or e-mail at titay@manila-online.net, Attn: Human Resources Supervisor on the subject line, not later than December 7, 2004.

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- Male, not more than 30 years old, computer literate
- With at least 3 years experience in hor./vert. devt.

Interested applicants are requested to come personally with their comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture and transcript or records
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Suite 2203B, 22/F, PSE Center-East Tower
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Mechanical Engineer with a minimum of 5 year experience in Design of pressure vessels, tanks and heat exchangers. Capable in preparing RFQ/RFP packages and Technical Bid Evaluation. Able to review Vendor documents. Familiar with ASME Code.

Structural Engineers

Structural Engineers with five years minimum work experience. Can generate and/or check engineering calculations, sketches and designs using computer aided and manual techniques for steel structures. Able to interface with other disciplines. Preferably with experience in petrochemical, oil and gas and light to heavy industrial facilities. Knowledge in STRUCAD 3D and SACS, Microstation or Autocadd preferred. With strong technical background and articulate.

Structural Designers

Structural Designers with five years minimum work experience. Steel structures related work experience in detailed engineering and design preferably in petrochemical, oil and gas and light to heavy industrial facilities. Knowledge in Microstation, Autocadd, Frameworks and/or Plant Design System required. Can prepare material take-off required for bill of materials listing. With strong technical background and articulate.

Estimators

Registered engineer with minimum of 5 years experience in estimating in oil, gas and petrochem projects. Good analytical and communication skills. Will assist in the preparation of estimates in all areas of specialty estimating. Develops quality material, labor and subcontract take-offs and coordinates information between Engineering Purchasing and Construction groups.

Preferred applicants:

1. Must have good moral character
2. Must be a Registered Engineer for Engineer positions
3. Knowledgeable in AUTOCAD or Microstation
4. Willing to undergo foreign assignment
5. Preferably with Offshore Experience

Remuneration will depend on applicant's related experience on the above requirements.
Successful candidates can expect a competitive compensation along with a rewarding career and opportunities.
Interested applicants may send your application letter, resume with picture, diploma and transcript of records to:

Ethel R. Castillo
or email: hr.apply@fluor.com
Human Resources Department
3/F Asian Star Bldg., Asean Drive, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1781

Our company has an immediate need of dynamic, highly individuals to fill the following positions:

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- With 5 years experience in vertical construction
- Must be a license Civil Engineer
- Computer literate
- Male at least 28 years old
- Willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila

BOOKKEEPER

- Female
- Accounting graduate
- Must have two years experience in general accounting and bookkeeping
- Computer literate

SECRETARY

- Articulate and with pleasing personality
- Must have at least 2 years experience in secretarial works
- Computer literate, can work long hours.
- Single, at least 25 years old

Please send your resumé with 2 x 2 photo to:

Suite 201 Security Bank Bldg., Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City or may fax their resumé at 952-44-80 or e-mail us at greserr@hotmail.com or greserr88@yahoo.com

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Bring 2x2 picture & a whole body picture.
Bring extra clothes, pants, shorts & skirt

Interested applicants are requested to apply in person with the necessary requirements mentioned above at Options Gateway Consultancy, Inc. - Unit 12 G/F Columbia Tower, Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City (near 7-11)
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- Quezon City and Dagupan City based, willing to travel

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- Graduate of Computer Technician or similar technical program
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The HR Manager
Dagupan Electric Corporation
VERIA 2 Building
AB Fernandez West, Dagupan City 2400
(075) 522-0283

or

The HR Manager
Dagupan Electric Corporation
VERIA I Building
62 West Ave., Quezon City 1104
(02) 374-3039

How to get rid of the 'humbug' in Christmas

By Regina Galang Reyes

DECEMBER is the worst month of the year. No, I am not a female Scrooge who thinks that Christmas is humbug.

But really, December, and the holidays it brings, is probably the most stressful time for working moms. Our schedules are thrown off balance by traffic made heavy with shoppers; our purses are opened to their widest by gifts to purchase; our patience is stretched to its thinnest by our trying to make time for work, family obligations and all the social events we want to attend.

In the rush of the Christmas holidays, we wing our way through December, trying to capture the true spirit of Christmas but instead end up unintentionally capturing—humbug, the spirit of pretense and deception.

Years ago, humbug was what I caught every December from eating an enormous amount of fatty foods during the holidays, accumulating huge debts on various credit cards, sleeping wickedly late because of too many socials, and trying to create a picture-perfect Christmas. No wonder, I spent the New Year just trying to recover from this "sickness."

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Four years ago, I vowed to recover from this yearly malaise and catch the true spirit of Christmas instead. So what is the true spirit of Christmas? Well, as we all know, it is being able to share our blessings. Many interpret this as giving gifts or money and unclogging our closets to give old clothes, books and toys to the needy. However, while material things can be blessings, blessings are not always material. According to wise Webster, a blessing is a "thing conducive to happiness and welfare." Thus, this can cover anything and everything that give happiness to other people, whether material or non-material. And if we believe the saying that "what is essential is invisible to the eye," non-material blessings may last longer than material ones.

Here are some ways you can share your blessings this Christmas:

• One of the most valuable non-material blessings we can share this Christmas is kindness. Kindness is in such short supply these days. I know of one executive assistant who, in the five years I worked with her, never uttered an unkind word about anyone whether boss, peer or subordinate. I could never get her to say anything negative about anyone. It was consciously a Christian act for her not to be unkind. For me, it was a "classy" act especially these days when it has become a "trend" in the workplace to be catty about other people. And the sad part is that women are often the butt of gossip circulated at work by women themselves who see other women as their "competitors." This Christmas (and hopefully, afterwards), try being nice to a "sister" at work. Give a gift, sincere praise, a smile, a kind word, a helping hand, and an attentive ear.

• One of the things we place close to our chest is our storehouse of knowledge and competencies. People who have risen in their careers have a treasure chest of competencies or skills that enable them to succeed in their careers. Unfortunately, many successful people pass on to the next life without being able to transfer their "technology" to the next generation. This is such a waste! Knowledge is meant to be shared, not stored. Why not teach a technique or two from your bag of competencies to a co-employee or subordinate? Teaching others what you have learned in life is one way of leaving a legacy that can be passed from one generation to the next.

• The phrase "it is the thought that counts" is not exactly correct. I also do not believe in the idea that it is the quality of time that counts, not quantity. I believe that love can only be expressed through action and one of the most powerful ways to demonstrate love is giving time for your loved ones. Not just quality time but lots of it. I once attended a life-changing career planning workshop. In that workshop, we were asked to analyze the time we devoted to various activities and how this allocation aligned with our values in life. I discovered to my horror that I was spending an average of five hours a day or a substantial 20 percent of my time traveling to and from my place of work. No matter what I did to make productive use of this time (like reading a book), this block of time away from work and family remained. Three years ago, I took drastic measures—moved my work to my home—and now I find I have plenty of quality time for my husband, my children and myself. I have since guarded my time meticulously, taking out all the non-essential activities from my schedule and devoting my hours to what's important to me in life.

Kindness, learning and time—these are three blessings we can share with others—and enable us to get rid of the "humbug" that's plaguing our lives and catch the true spirit of the holidays.

(Reprinted with permission from Metro Working Mom.)

What does it take to make it as a consultant

From page 10

when you need to deliver bad news, it's just important to do it in a way that makes people still want to listen.

Are you good at spotting problems and coming up with solutions? I believe there is a consultant gene, something in them that makes them inveterate problem-solvers. Are you the kind of person that other people naturally turn to for advice? If you don't mind being put on the hot seat, this just might be the career for you.

Do you have technical expertise and a unique base of knowledge? A consultant has got to bring something to the table that the company doesn't already have. So it's important to carve out your niche very carefully. Training programs, degrees and successful consulting projects will all help you to develop your niche. Also be aware of the resources that exist for the companies that you are targeting and be sure you have something unique to offer.

Can you work independently? Consulting is a huge departure from having a boss, clear responsibilities and a steady paycheck. It's tough to do the hustle full time (and we're not talking disco here). Are you a self-starter, do you cope well with uncertainty, are you prepared to sell yourself and your services and can you find ways to support yourself even in tough times?

Being a consultant doesn't need to be a gamble. Follow these tips and you just might take to it like a fish to water.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: How do you feel about breaking free of the corporate grind?

—I'm just a corporate guy or gal, 7 percent

—I've already escaped, 18.8 percent

—I'd like to but I'm scared, 30.5 percent

—I dream about getting out, 43.5 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

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   - 2nd page : educational attainment and work history/experience (comprehensive)
   - All attachment should be letter-sized paper
2. CGFNS Certificate & Results (if available)
3. TOEFL/TSE or IELTS Certificate & Results (if available)
4. NCLEX-RN Certificate & Results (if available)
5. Board of Nursing Certificate & Rating Result
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9. 4 pcs. 2x2 pictures
10. NBI Clearance
11. Passport (photocopy/if available)

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Look for Arlene or Janice

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SUPERVISORS FOR MECHANICAL ERECTION WORKS / CIVIL & BUILDING WORKS (M) Kobe Steel Ltd./ KOBELCO for assignment in IRAN FINAL INTERVIEW ON DEC. 6, 2004	Engineering graduates with extensive experience in the interpretation of mechanical and civil erection works. Should be knowledgeable in the interpretation of technical documents relating to mechanical erection and operation of general machines in a pelletising plant; interpretation and documentation of quality control requirements of the erection works, schedule and control under close coordination with the client and local contractors
PROCESS OPERATORS (M) Abu Dhabi Polymers Co. Ltd. (Borouge) ABU DHABI, U.A.E. FINAL INTERVIEW ON DEC. 13-15, 2004	Engineering graduates with minimum 5 years experience in the petrochemical company. Knowledgeable in the operations of an Ethylene plant. Knowledge in trouble -shooting plant equipment such as Steam Turbines, Turbo Expanders Centrifugal / Reciprocating compressors & pumps, etc
DRILLERS / ASST. DRILLERS (M) Precision Drilling Corporation KUWAIT, OMAN & KSA	Extensive experience in an on-shore or off-shore oil drilling company with at least 3 years experience as Driller / Asst Driller/Must have valid well control or blow out prevention certificate. Demonstrated skills as a leader and trainer with exemplary safety record and commitment to safe work practices
COATING ADVISORS (M) Hempel Paints WLL KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA	Technical course graduates with minimum of two years experience plus sufficient knowledge of the (protective marine) coatings industry with Frosio or Nace certification an advantage. Preferred age between 23 to 33 years old
BUTCHERS / BAKERS / FLORISTS (M/F) Spinneys Dubai LLC DUBAI, U.A.E.	Minimum three years experience in the supermarket, hotels or flower shops. Good communication skills in English. Candidates must possess valid passport and authenticated school certificates prior to the final interview.
ELECTRICAL FITTERS / REWINDERS (M) Intersel FZE DUBAI, U.A.E.	Electrical Engineering or Technical Course graduates with extensive experience in the dismantling assembly & testing of large AC & DC motors and generators. Skilled in the armature / HV / LV / form wound coilers
QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTORS (M) Saudi Yanbu Petrochemical Co. KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA	BS Mechanical Engineering with extensive years of experience in QC Inspection. ASNT Level III Certified in MPI, PT, UT and RT - in addition to AWS certificate. Should be experienced in plant inspection and familiar with relevant codes and standards for pressure vessels, piping and tanks inspections

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- Male or Female
- Knowledgeable in Adobe softwares and/or other 3D Design Programs
- Must possess creative skills both digital & manual
- Assertive and Result Oriented
- 27 years old & below
- Willing to be trained
- **Portfolio is required.**

Sales Associate
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- Graduate of any business related course.
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Qualified applicants should send their comprehensive resume and 1x1 photo to:
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Tel. # 2400061,2402696 Telefax: 6565150

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- Male or Female • Single • Graduate of a 4 yrs course
- With experience on Marketing

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Email resumé with picture @ clancher@earthlink.net

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- Involvement in installation phases, inspections, testing & repairs.
- Knowledge in proper start-up of turbine/generator system
- Overseas experience, training will be provided.

Qualifications:
- Bachelors degree in Electrical or Electronic Engineering. Licensed preferred.
- Fluent in understanding and speaking in English Language.
- High flexibility and willing to travel abroad.
- 2 to 4 years working experience

2. Generator Diagnostic Engineer

The Job:
- DIRIS diagnosis on generator and auxiliary systems.
- Trouble shooting and condition assessment on generator damages.
- AC/DC high voltage measurements.
- Shaft voltage analysis.
- Servicing of protection and excitation systems (old & new).
- Servicing of auxiliary systems (seal oil, H2 and H2O systems).
- Commissioning of monitoring systems (ROMON, PAMOS, FOMOS).

Qualifications:
- Bachelors degree in Electrical or Electronic Engineering, Licensed preferred
- Fluent in understanding and speaking in English Language.
- High flexibility and willing to travel abroad
- 5 to 10 years working experience

Interested Parties may send their application to:

ALSTOM PHILIPPINES Inc.
Unit 9C Equitable Bank Tower,
8751 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City

Human Resources Department
Attn: Terry S. Sanchez
Or at philippines@power.alstom.com

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- Is a Filipino citizen; not more than 40 years old.

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(Batangas-Based)

- Gracious Filipino with extensive background in Rooms Management, Front Office and Housekeeping operations.
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- Customer relations-oriented; goes an extra mile to pamper the guests.
- Is highly personable and astute in identifying opportunities.
- Adept in training, planning, forecasting, budgeting, inventory processes and revenue management.
- Preferably between 30 to 35 yrs. old.

FINANCE MANAGER
(Batangas-Based)

- Adept in financial and investment analysis and report preparation, audit and cost management.
- Is strong in management systems and applications.
- Experience in banking transactions and negotiations, a must.
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant with an MBA degree.
- Is detailed, organized, and trustworthy.
- Not more than 40 years old.

HR and TRAINING OFFICER
(Batangas-Based)

- Is adept in all facets of HR functions, with emphasis on recruitment, payroll and benefits administration, and HR and administrative office management; training facilitation skills a big plus.
- Is highly adaptable and flexible; possesses management skills.
- Graduate of Psychology or Social Science course.
- Female; preferably single; not more than 35 years old.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
(Manila and Batangas-Based)

- With at least two years hotel sales experience.
- Possesses excellent people and communication skills.
- Enjoys field work; has a good network of clients/contacts.
- Graduate of any four-year course preferably business-related.
- Female; not more than 32 years old.

Qualified applicants can send their resume to:

HR Management Group
24th Floor, IBM Plaza
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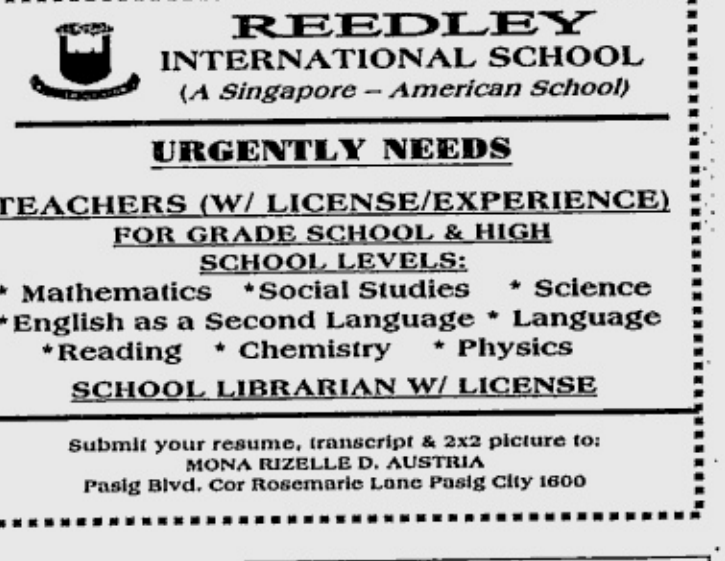

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Can 'power dressing' improve your image in job interviews?

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

I CAN'T AFFORD to buy fancy slacks and blazers for my job interviews. I feel inferior to other job applicants who dress smartly. Perhaps, this adds to my low level of self-confidence and made me fail many job interviews.

My friends and former classmates tell me that I should learn and invest in "power dressing." Do you think it will help my chances of getting a job? Just what is "power dressing?" Can you give me some advice to improve my image and get a good career?

Plain Clothes Girl

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Having a good career does not just require dressing smartly. There has to be more to a great career than just power dressing. As the opinionated Simon Cowell of "American Idol" fame would say, "People will do the strangest things just to hide the fact they are completely and utterly talentless."

I agree with Simon completely that one has to have talent. However, he also admits that "when a woman walks in to audition, I might think, 'God, she's ugly.'" Before one opens his or her mouth to talk, people are already judging him or her in the first five seconds by the way he or she looks and making an opinion or impression in the next 20 or 30 seconds.

Survival of the prettiest

There are thousands of talented people who cannot even get a foot in the door of great corporations because they don't know how to. Every day in this world, people are fighting not just a war for survival of the fittest—it's also a war for "survival of the prettiest."

Perhaps, it is unfair, but most people are highly visual—they judge you by the way you look on the outside. When you go to a job interview, your appearance—not your talent.or dedication to duty—is the first to get noticed. In fact, many job applicants never get to the interview stage because their resumés have unremarkable photos. I don't mean to be rude, but most human resource managers are good trainers, not plastic surgeons. Therefore, they hire trainable people with basic good grooming and personality. Between equally qualified job applicants, the better-groomed gets an edge.

I want to emphasize here the importance of creating a successful image, whether you are looking for a job or wanting a promotion. To get my message across, I will choose to be rude this time—perhaps, just like Simon Cowell of "American Idol" or Douglas Nierras of "StarStruck."

In the corporate world, the people who get hired, get promoted, and get paid more are usually those who pay great attention to the way they dress and groom themselves. Whether you like it or not, you are sending a strong personal statement with the way you dress.

Brian Tracy said, "You tell others what you think of yourself, and you signal to others how they are to evaluate you and treat you. Since you dress yourself, you are responsible for whatever message you send."

Appropriate dressing

But what is power dressing? It does not mean wearing expensive clothes or a dozen pieces of jewelry. It means dressing appropriately so that you best project the image of success in whatever you do. In job interviews, wear business attire—not party dress or long gown or tuxedo, especially if you are applying for an entry level position. Some people tend to overdress in job interviews, too. Cora Doloroso suggests six to eight pieces of jewelry only for women job applicants. Remember that you are looking for a job, not showing off your expensive collection.

When you get that job, maintain your power dressing. Don't dress shabbily after you get hired, lest your officemates think that you only borrowed or rented your "job interview costume."

How should you dress when you now have a job? I will share a personal experience here. I used to work in a bank before I joined San Miguel. Once I got hired in San Miguel by Met Ganuelas, I tried to keenly observe how the more successful people and leaders in San Miguel and the business community dressed. Of course, I also saw how the others in my position dressed—unremarkable! The greater mass of humanity in that 30,000 strong corporation wore uniforms. I opted not to wear the uniform.

Dressing 'up'

My personal rule was to dress for two positions above my current job. I was sending a personal message with the way I dressed. With persistence and consistency in the way I dressed, I was looking like a person in a higher position. Perhaps, when I started to look like somebody in a higher level, the people I met, especially those who could decide about my career, must have begun to think highly of me. Of course, it was not all pizzazz—it was hard work and producing valuable results, too. I got regularized in three months and promoted in one year.

My boss began to trust me with some of his own responsibilities. Once, we were asked to present to the Division Managers (mostly Spaniards or mestizos, but all masters of the Hispanic language) the new appraisal system we designed for San Miguel. I dressed like one of them. One of the elderly division heads kidded me before the presentation, "You have the lowliest position in the company but you are able to gather these busy people two days in a row and listen to your presentation. This must be something important."

Lasting impressions

Power dressing makes you look more important, competent, credible and capable. Even after San Miguel, I realized that my bosses always took pride in tagging me along and introducing me to key customers or other executives in the industry.

Here are a few more tips on creating lasting impressions through power dressing:

- Look like a winner always—everybody loves a winner.
- Act as if you are a very important person.
- Strive to appear like a person with a future.
- Try to show others that you are going up the ladder.
- Influence others with your external appearance.
- Never lose your composure, even in difficult situations.
- Groom yourself to be a person destined to succeed.

Quote for the week

"How important is physical appearance? Let us just say that physical appearance or power dressing helps you create a good impact and a good first impression. Imagine coming to the interview in untidy attire, worn out rubber shoes, and yellow teeth. Do you think the interviewer will be impressed?" (Cecilia, "How to Get a Job", 2000)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. E-mail feedback to ec4u@edsamail.com.ph.)

PEOPLE at WORK columnists (standing from left to right) Teresa Reyes Tunay, Bishop Precioso Cantillas, Tita Datu Puangco, (seated from left to right) Josie Santamaria, Ernie Cecilia with editor Regina Galang Reyes.

WOULD you like to join a network that can help you in your career growth and development? To address your career concerns and needs, People at Work is setting up a forum where people at work and jobseekers can support each other in the quest for a better career and life. People at Work columnists, writers and editorial staff will also be part of this forum to lend you a helping hand. Working professionals, jobseekers, human resource executives and practitioners, managers, trainers, consultants and all others willing to share and help are welcome to join. To join, e-mail your name, gender, civil status, age, contact number, company name and position title (if applicable) to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph or fax to tel. no. (632) 938-2092 or text to 02-937-0376.

What does it take to make it as a consultant?

DEAR WW: I survived this round of layoffs, but I can still feel the guillotine blade hanging over my head. I'd like to try consulting and get more control over my life. But I've always been a corporate gal, so what do I need to know?

Eyes On The Prize

Dotty was so despondent that everyone who knew her thought she might try to kill herself. This was no idle concern; Dotty is a highly toxic boxfish and the staff at the Bournemouth Oceanarium knew she could pull it off. Then, one staff person thought her depression might be that she was lonely, so he suggested putting a pair of plastic dice in her tank. It worked, and now Dotty and her dice are inseparable.

For people who are inside corporations, jumping ship to become a consultant often looks like one big roll of the dice. But those who've successfully made the transition don't focus on the risk. Like Dotty, they fall in love with the dice. Start by asking yourself the following questions. For more, turn to "How to Make it Big as a Consultant" by William Cohen (Amacom, 2001).

Do you have a good bedside manner? A consultant is usually easier to fire, so people have far more choice when it comes to working, or not working, with a consultant. So it's even more important to be someone that people will choose to work with. This is not to say that you should turn into a Pollyanna. There are times

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How to get rid of the 'humbug' in Christmas p. 8

'Nasibak'

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WORKPLACE lingo can sometimes be so graphic. Take, for example, "nasibak," which means someone got sacked or fired. To say a worker just got "laid off" would imply that he lost his job without creating a splash, but to say "nasibak" would evoke images of heads rolling—the worker in all probability lost his job in a most traumatic way: his head was chopped off—he got the axe, so to speak.

Normally, a worker gets the axe when he is unproductive, when he does not "produce good fruit" as today's Gospel so graphically describes. In the workplace, the minimum of "good fruit" one can produce is the output expected from him. Most workers can meet this minimum expectation, and as long as they can keep their record clean, it's good enough performance as far as employers are concerned. Going a step further, some workers do more than what their job descriptions require—and do it well besides, thus they produce "better fruit" for the company. But whether we produce "good fruit" or "better fruit," we cannot deny the fact that we all make mistakes every now and then. Occasionally we get sluggish (overate and drank like a fish at last night's party), or suffer mood swings (sometimes brought on by domestic or relational problems outside of the workplace), which adversely affect our conduct on the job. We're just being human, we say. Fine, but—see the turning point here? See how we can use our mistakes to advantage? The turn hinges on repentance. When we feel sorry for our wrongdoings and resolve to do better, hence, we restart on the road to productivity, to producing good—and better—fruit. We can now throw the axe into the fire. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

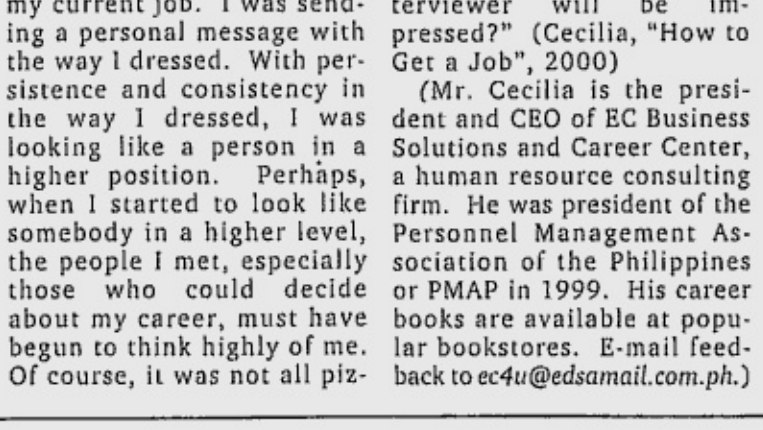

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance... Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

Work and repentance

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

AS AN EMPLOYER, I have met employees who would contritely ask pardon for the offenses they have committed at work. These repentant workers would promise better behavior and work performance if given another chance. I would normally ask them, however, to show concrete signs of true repentance before I would grant their request. And I have observed that the truly repentant worker would work harder and show better performance and dedication in his work than he used to.

This experience reminds me of Jesus asking for the same attitude and feeling of true repentance from everyone, including those in the workplace—both employers and employees, offenders and non-offenders at work—for after all, we all sin against God one way or another either in the workplace or in other areas of our life. Jesus warns us to "produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance" or else we "will be cut down and thrown into the fire." What then could we show to God as "fruit and evidence" of our true repentance?

Our work performance could be one way we show true repentance. We express our sincere repentance when we change our negative outlook, from "work is an unavoidable burden I have to bear" to our "I wholeheartedly accept work as God's will for me." We also show true sorrow for not trusting God enough, relying too much on our human capabilities, and forgetting that talents are gifts from God, by sincerely thanking the Lord for them, by using them unselfishly in our work, not only for our own satisfaction but also for the benefit of others, and offering our work for the praise and glory of the Father. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

A day in the life of a nine-to-fiver

By Ron C.
Contributor

YOU know how cats are when they're having sex. Like humans, they're noisy. But quite unlike humans, they're violently noisy (I mean, where's the tender love and affection?). It took two cats at the violent throes of passion to jolt me out of sleep.

Of course, I say my morning prayer. Then, I rummage through the kitchen cupboard downstairs. I make myself a cup of coffee. I know my daily dose of caffeine carries with it a heavy price, but I refuse to trade a piping hot sip in the morning for anything. It's one of the few things that make everyday life worth living, and I should be willing to trade it off with getting stuck in traffic and being late for work.

I grab a cup of desiccated noodle for the office in lieu of a real breakfast. You see, my apartment is so stricken by poverty that the resident rats complain and eventually die of hunger (How come there are so many cats around here?).

I prepare to take a bath but my brother Rommel beats me into it. He uses water as if he has an entire ocean for a bathroom. "Go easy on the water," I holler, stratospheric bills in mind. Geez, I'm running late.

On the road

Life's many other little paradoxes assert themselves the minute I slam the door shut on my way to work. I ride an FX taxi. The streets are clogged as usual with jeepneys, buses and cars of every make, but many other commuters have nothing else to take them to work! By the look of the commuters' faces, it seems like they've been waiting for at least one danged year. One pines for the Holy Week when the roads are totally deserted, anyone can stage a ballroom dancing class without having to stop, look and listen.

Inevitably, the question shoves itself in my face: Why exactly is traffic almost always bad? Let's see. On Mondays, all roads lead to Metro Manila where people come back from their weekend getaways in the provinces. On Wednesdays, all roads supposedly lead to Baclaran and it is the tail end of the bunch-up wherever you are currently trapped. On Fridays, all roads lead to Quiapo. On Saturdays, all roads lead to the malls, and at night, to the city's watering holes. On Sundays, all roads lead to churches and yet to the malls; entire families hie off to nearby resorts in an exodus. So, we're left with Tuesdays and Thursdays to keep our sanity.

But when the traffic actually eases up, you're sure the city screeches to an abnormal standstill. It could be a rally on EDSA or a major transport strike.

The girl in front of me stares at me for a long, undignified period of time, i.e., long enough to get caught. I take it to mean three things: (1) I look familiar to her, (2) I look sexually appealing to her, she's waiting for me to give her my call card. (3) She badly wants to tell me my fly is open. In general, I mind invasion of privacy. Not this one. I would actually get mad if anybody showed zero interest, because it can only mean three things as well: (1) The girl likes guys but not those prettier than her, (2) She likes girls more than she likes guys, (3) My fly is open. So I check it out. It's securely closed.

I arrive in the office in one piece through sheer miracle. Praying really works wonders. I swipe my identification card at the timer. Yes, I am late by a minute, which triggers me into pensive mode. (Annie's Song playing in the background.)

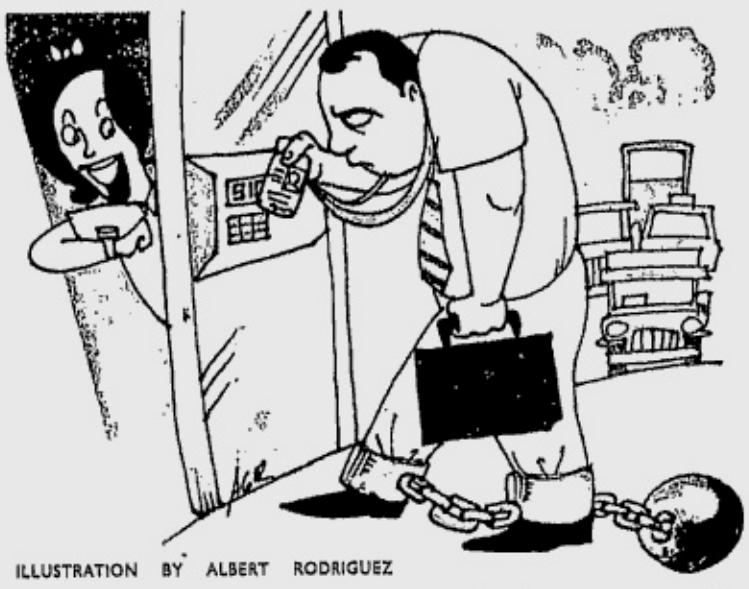

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I remember the day I found my present job (snivel, snivel). I wanted to hug and kiss anyone I could see within my field of vision and throw a party. I couldn't say a word but "Yes!" in between pumping the air with my fist.

Today (tears now rolling), reporting for work can mean dragging my heavy duty shoes forward as though I had elephantiasis, as though I'm being dragged to the electric chair.

I make myself feel guilty by thinking about the swelling number of the unemployed, the underemployed, and the foreign-employed.

Pleasantries

With a thunderclap of a voice, my officemate Alma announces for all to hear in the office that I look so "officious" today with my chosen attire, like a cloak of authority. Alma has this bad habit of putting her friends on the spot. I don't quite know how to react, as I grope for the most appropriate word of retaliation. Then, with finality, I fulminate at her: "You're....you're contumacious!" This is how I annoy people who annoy me—I turn encyclopedic. Alma speeds off towards the latest edition of Webster's dictionary, flipping over the pages like crazy. This is our version of a morning pleasantry.

The phone rings and I answer with a sincere hello. The voice returns my kindness by responding like I am a retard.

Actual work

I haven't stopped singing hosannas the day after I walked into an office room of thunderous clapping, reeling from the success of a recent job allegedly well done. It's one of the things that have kept me going.

But that was so long ago. The point is, I wouldn't mind a repeat of it. My typical work consists of word transpositions, deletions, insertions and grammatical corrections to legal documents. Thus, a long title such as "Practical guidelines in hiring an environmental consultant to perform investigation and cleanup activities for leaking underground storage tanks" is sloughed off to "Practical guidelines in hiring consultant for investigation and clean up of leaking underground storage tanks." I fume, I snort, I explode at every error or my pulse quickens at every exhibition of expertise.

I would describe my current job as exacting, monotonous, tedious, and taxing. It has squeezed me out, tied me down, burnt me out and got my goat, bringing out the worst in me. My job has improved my vocabulary.

Lunch break

"What are we going to ingest?" I ask my lunchmates equally dismayed by the lousy canteen food. We decide to eat out. I reach out for my wallet and find that it's gone. "That girl in the FX taxi! She wanted to tell me something!"

I manage with the tragedy. We take a table shaped in a curious polygon. We have what they call a "power lunch." We call ourselves the Knights of the Trapezoidal Table. The day's agenda delves on, among many other topics, Chinoys with funny names: Washington Dy-Sy, Andy Lim, Edgar Allan Pe, and Bennett Ong. We return to work with laugh marks on our faces and gas pains in our stomach. I forget about my lost wallet.

Upon our return, we are told that we have to work overtime.

Back home

I'm back home through sheer miracle. Being burned out makes me think: The only way to make extra money and get a life is to work overtime. But working overtime steals away all my time and energy, so I end up having no life. My life—or non-life—redefines the meaning of Catch 22.

When night falls, I toss and flip my body in the bed of metaphysical unease, waiting for time to stand still and my memory to fade, that I may lose counting sheep jumping over a stile. I switch on the TV only to turn it off. I read a book instead, only to dog-ear a page. In lotus position, I ruminate on life's joys and pains, love, death and dreams.

At the end of the day, it's between me and my God. I talk to Him, confront Him. I've been working for almost 10 years now and I'm still renting an apartment, still commuting using public transport, still dependent on a finite income. What happened? Should I blame You or should I blame me? It seems that I've been lulled by my steady income into the pits of complacency. It seems that I wasn't ambitious enough or daring enough. I should have tried working abroad or starting up my own little enterprise. Tell me God, is ambition bad, or am I just being told to move on?

At REM stage, I enter a world as grotesque as that of Hieronymus Bosch's and Salvador Dali's. Not unlike my waking hours. I dream about all sorts of things. I dream of blue-eyed foxes, strange birds and butterflies. I dream I'm a prisoner of war during the Japanese occupation. I dream of having Nelson Mandela's ear for lunch.

I have no intention of interpreting these stupid dreams. All I know is, even my dreams are consistently crazy.

Suddenly, my dream of a bird of prey plucking at my private parts is cut short by the sound of two cats at the violent throes of passion. You know how cats are when they're having sex...

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Interviews in Makati – Jan/Feb 2005.
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  - Provide support to staff in computer related training and problems
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  - Be responsible for the re-organization and maintenance of the paper filing system
  - Take part in the maintenance and development of office databases such as the office general directory and the rejects database
- Render various administrative and logistical services including the following:
  - Make necessary arrangements for staff and visitor travel requirements
  - Assist in making necessary arrangements for office activities including team, cross programme and regional events such as meetings, trainings and workshops
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  - Provide general administrative support to Programme Services Manager

Essential Specifications
- At least one year experience in and demonstrable commitment to administrative work. Experience in setting up administrative systems is desirable
- Good interpersonal and communication skills, the ability to relate to people of all backgrounds
- Strong customer/client service orientation
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- Demonstrable aptitude in Information Technology and basic trouble shooting
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Sunday INQUIRER

December 5, 2004

Rachy Cuna

Holiday Touches with Everyday Flair

The versatile designer and stylist was born with a talent for decorating and an eye for finding treasures. Happily, he assures that creating Christmas cheer at home doesn't have to cost much, especially if you recycle and go Filipino

By Harriet Ann Dy
Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

ALL that glitters seems to turn to gold this year for designer/stylist/artist/floral architect Rachy Cuna. At the Ramon Magsaysay Awards presentation ceremonies last August, for example, he crafted golden floral cone-shaped vases and filled them with orchids and tropical blooms.

For Shopwise Alabang's ongoing "Global *Pasko*" *campaign, matte gold sun ornaments and gold maya* birds add a distinct Filipino sheen to a neutral-colored Christmas tree embellished with bamboo stars and naturally-colored capiz shells.

Closer to his grandmother Celestina Zamora's home, a newly-restored 1930s residence in the heart of Ermita, Rachy declares that "copper is the color of the season because it matches the gold accents in this house." This year's Christmas tree is brightened up with orange tassles, copper and gold ball ornaments, mini-capiz stars and etched glass to complement the gold-dipped Davalla ferns in the dining room and the capiz-and-gold upside down pineapple lanterns on the ceiling.

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The American in Manila
by Bambi L. [illegible], p.4

The Chick Who Writes Chick Lit
by Amee R. Enriquez, p.5

There Must Be A Dog Heaven
by Alya B. Honasan, p.6

Rachy ...from page 1

Orientalia haven: Rachy on one of several visits to Beijing, China

His Midas touch notwithstanding, Rachy has always been known for his trademark blend of the Asian and the whimsical, the Filipino and the modern. "He's really very good especially in Orientalia," says cakemaker Penk Ching of Pastry Bin, a friend and colleague of more than a decade.

Maybe it's in the genes; he counts Ignacio Boncan, a Chinese merchant, among his ancestors. Or childhood summers spent in Tokyo with the entire Zamora clan on his mother's side. Better yet, maybe it's a combination of both. Rachy's distinct style, whether in floral arrangements, interiors, paintings or even jewelry and handbags, has consistently mirrored the sensibility of the East.

Stylized flavor

"Who else will help the Philippines if not us?" he says of his tireless efforts to add a local, if stylized, flavor to his many creative projects.

It is a passion that he has cultivated since his teen years. Born to businessman Bert Cuna and Pacita Zamora Cuna, Rachy only has one other sibling, brother Ricky, who has made his name as the entrepreneur behind the Italian ice cream Fiorgelato. He and Ricky are close, Rachy says, but poles apart in taste and temperament..

Sibling style: Rachy, at right, with brother Ricky

As a Grade 7 student, Rachy would religiously save his P25 weekly allowance and troop to Ermita to buy *santos* from antique dealers. "While everyone else collected GI Joes, I would buy broken pottery and *santos* with no heads or arms because they were cheap," he recalls.

He scored one of his early finds, a set of Soong dynasty jarlets sold to him by another antique shopper for P10, during one of these weekly expeditions.

His eye and collection gradually developed through the years. From chipped china, he moved to paintings by Sanso and Joya, jade and even orchids while working on his degree in Business Economics at San Beda.

In the '70s, he embarked on what was to become a 12-year career with the Ayala Museum. From museum volunteer and receptionist, he worked his way up to curator—no mean feat for someone with no formal art background.

At the Ayala, he not only developed a discerning eye for fine things, he also honed new skills beyond the creative.

"Because I helped in organizing events at the old Aviary, I learned many things, from menu preparation to floral arrangements to relating with all kinds of people," he says. "Best of all, I developed the discipline of a working person."

It is a habit that he retains to this day. "He is very devoted to his craft," says Penk. "His work is his life and his creativity really shows through his work."

Design consultant

A short stint as a design consultant for a floral company bridged the professional gap between Ayala and the birth of Rachy at the Met retail store. The '90s had rolled around, and he had found another home at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila.

Amidst its hallowed halls, he turned local once again and used the humble *palay* (unhusked rice) as his store's logo. *Palay*, he says, symbolizes prosperity and blessings. And for six years, his store weathered retail seasons despite slow museum traffic.

One good thing about his Met stint was that it gave him the opportunity to explore his introspective side through his one-man show, titled "Journeast," a 75-piece abstract painting exhibition.

When the millennium arrived, however, his creative juices went on overdrive. In 2001, he came up with a jewelry collection in capiz and silver. For the Centennial, he researched and recreated the Aguinaldo shrine in Cavite from a hundred years back, crafted silk flowers and drenched them in sampaguita scent to make them last the week-long celebration. That Christmas, he worked with Unilever to create the biggest *belen* in Luneta. This time, he put the *parol* in the spotlight.

He also launched the Rachy Cuna Cup, an annual award given to young and upcoming floral designers that same year as a way "to give back to society."

In 2002, he came up with an exclusive bag collection that once again melded the East and West—a clutch with Chinese prosperity coins, and cylindrical-shaped bags with names like "Wealth" and "Oriental Bliss."

A year later, he went back to jewelry design, this time working pieces out of semi-precious stones.

In between, he continues to indulge in his fascination for the Oriental through active involvement in the Association for Philippine-China Understanding (APCU) where he is vice-chairman.

Like a sunburst at high noon, Rachy continues to radiate with countless ideas and to find outlets for his varied interests. To critics who have panned his "jack-of-all-trades-master-of-none" efforts, he says, "I'm just happy to have the luxury to do things that I enjoy."

Commissioned projects and seminars aside, Rachy—whose favorite expression is "dearest"—is just that to friends and staff. A close female friend tells us of his staff's fierce loyalty. "He even takes them with him on his trips abroad," she says.

Makeover

For her part, Penk recalls the time Rachy gave her a makeover. "About a year ago I had a function to attend, and he sent his driver and brought me to his stylist at Emphasis salon for a long promised makeover," she recalls. "Not content with the new look, he even got me a Criselda Lontok outfit and jewelry to use and wouldn't take a cent from me."

These days, Rachy is working on another makeover. This time, however, he has been put to task as a visual consultant for a large department store. Although he is mum on the details, he is hoping to unveil the store's new look by next year. He is also busy working on pieces for a sculpture show also in 2005.

Meantime, at the stately Zamora home, curtains find a second life as a tablecloth, and round mirrors on the dining table reflect the antique glass chandelier in the dining room. At home and beyond, the creativity doesn't stop.

Sunday Inquirer Magazine December 5, 2004
Vol. 18 No. 40 ISSN 0116 - 232X

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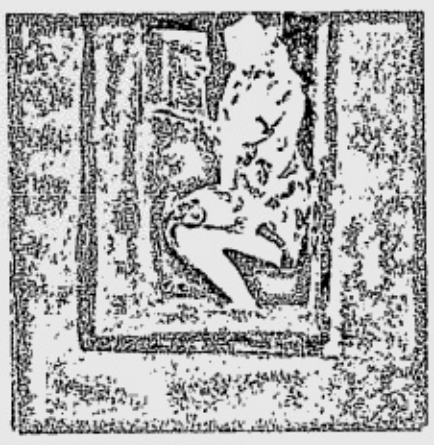


CAVESTANY'S DREAMS Valeria Cavestany is mounting a two gallery exhibit, "Dreams on Paper," until Dec. 12 at the Finale Art Gallery and Galleria Duemila in SM Megamall. Cavestany's new works comprise a delightful selection of the artist's watercolor still lifes, mixed media experimentations, and utilitarian furniture innovations with a twist of fine art. In photo is "Light Box: Glued to the Phone." *For more of This Week, see page 7*

'UNFORTUNATE, IRRESPONSIBLE'

I congratulate Maria Taniguchi for having been featured in your prestigious magazine ("The Art of Disappointment," **SIM**, 21 November 2004). However, it is very unfortunate that your article is based on inaccurate statements and rehashed issues long resolved.

Please allow me to quote some of Ms. Taniguchi's statements and set the record straight.

1. " It was weird, because I was a student, he was my teacher, and it was work I did while I was under him..."

Fact is, I was not her teacher when she made the cast figures that I declared as "found objects" for the work "The Meaning of Peace." In an earlier interview ("Much ado about The Meaning of Peace" by Eric Catipon, Phil. Star, 04 Oct. 1999), I quote Ms. Taniguchi, "I was not at all pressured... For one thing, hindi ko na siya teacher for about two years so he didn't have any hold on me..."

Profs. Feleo and Aquilizan were her teachers then.

2. "...his subsequent body of work is all from that piece... and he never did that kind of work before the AAP thing."

My subsequent body of works ("Homoaestheticus Series" at Galleria Duemila 2000, 2002) can be said to be the result of simultaneous explorations in various media.

Fact is, in 1986, I introduced full body plaster casting from life at PHSA. My "Isko" sculpture in collaboration with Visual arts students (batch '87) was funded through a grant from UP PCCA (through Dr. Jonathan Malicsi).

In 1994, I introduced the use of fiberglass as a medium for mask-making and casting body parts at PHSA. In 1996, the senior students and I employed fiberglass in producing masks for the Fox Foundation and Juilliard School (New York) Grant c/o Ana Valdez-Lim.

Fact is, I used fiberglass for the 9.5 ft high woman sculpture/boatmen sculpture commissioned by the Zu Bar & Restaurant (Makati Shangri-la) in 1995; "Altar," AAP First Prize in Sculpture; "Metamorphosis" exhibited at the Kyoto International Community Center (1994); "Bonifacio," entry to the 2nd Bonifacio Public Art Competition, etc.

Fact is, the impetus to produce free-standing figurative sculptures for the Homoaestheticus series came about in 1998. I shared this excitement in producing full figure pieces with Maria T. by showing her a picture of Antony Gormley's work "Learning to Think" before she formally created her cast figures.

My sculptures are also inspired by the works of my students (which definitely includes Maria T., Batch '99, but equally by many who did cast from life fiberglass/sawdust figures such as Datu Arellano, batch '98 "Take your Time," Kawayan de Guia, batch '96, Mark Cosico, batch '95, etc.)

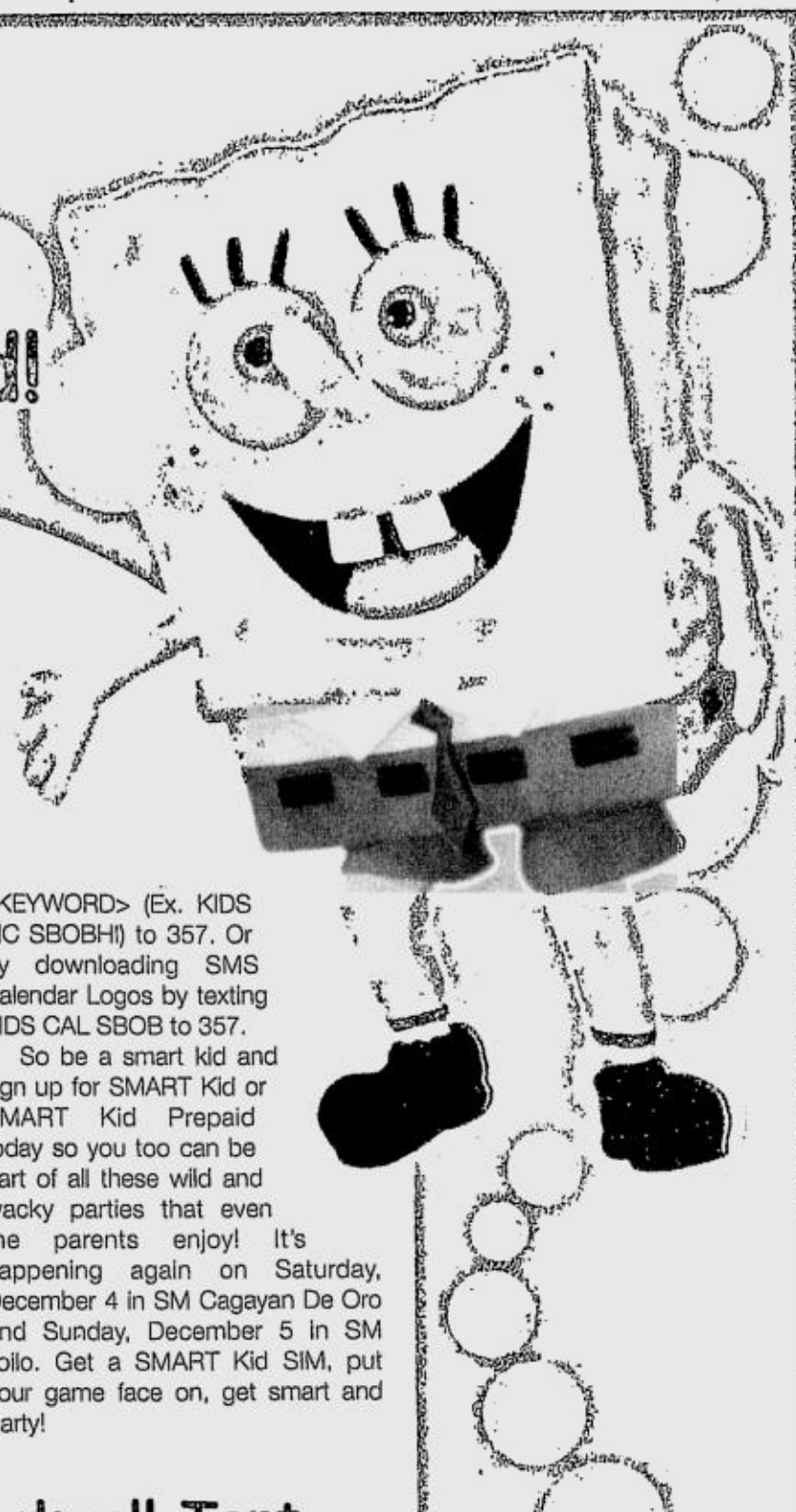
Again, it is unfortunate and irresponsible to claim ownership of an art technique and exclusivity/monopoly in the use of the human figure as a subject matter in sculpture. The qualities of the materials and the choice of subject matter may result in similar looking forms but serious practitioners always refer to the artist's intent to gauge the validity of any creative undertaking.

GERRY LEONARDO
leonarts@laguna.net

Rachy's Decorating Do's

1. **Be brave with color. Rachy has combined green and orange, white on white and fuchsia and magenta to dramatic results. For this holiday season, he has combined orange tassels, copper Christmas balls, mini-capiz stars and etched glass.**
2. **Scout around for raw materials and spray-paint them with color. Some suggestions: *Parol* frames and *sipa* balls get a touch of glitz when spray-painted in gold.**
3. **When it comes to tree ornaments, Rachy says "less is always more."**
4. **Make sure your Christmas lights are wrapped generously around the tree branches for a luminous and twinkling effect.**
5. **Put your Christmas tree in a focal point of your house. "A good spot sets a strong holiday tone throughout the room," he says. Rachy suggests the center of the sala or beside the sofa or console table. When it comes to tree height, he prefers them "close to the ceiling."**
6. **Big vases with skinny twigs and branches plucked from the garden and spray-painted in a monochromatic color are a good substitute for Christmas trees. "Christmas doesn't always have to be about poinsettias," he says.**
7. **Spruce up your table by clustering single-color Christmas balls in a glass container, or group your candelabra and dress them up in bows.**
8. **Buy Filipino. You can wrap gifts with recycled *trapo*, handmade paper, raffia or *sinamay* ribbons, and use postcards of old Filipino prints as gift tags.**

Splashing Around with SpongeBob SquarePants--Only with SMART Kid Prepaid!



So strange, so unique, so...uh...spongy. Deep down in the Pacific Ocean in the subterranean city of Bikini Bottom lives a square yellow sea sponge named SpongeBob SquarePants. SpongeBob lives in a pineapple with his pet snail, Gary, loves his job as a fry cook at the Krusty Krab, and has a knack for getting into all kinds of trouble without really trying...

And that's who SpongeBob basically is. One of Nickelodeon's most well-loved characters, SMART Kid Prepaid recently teamed up with Nickelodeon yet again for an exciting meet 'n greet Splash Party! SMART Kid Prepaid, the first celfone for kids, kept the fun factor at overdrive last Sunday, November 28, at the Rockwell Tent as hundreds and hundreds of kids squared up with other kids and their parents to meet their favorite TV idol in the fle.., well, sponge. Prior to the Rockwell Tent event, SpongeBob SquarePants also visited SM Megamall and SM City North Edsa, both of which were equally successful "meet 'n greet" dates for young ones and their idol.

It was a non-stop party affair that started at 10am and lasted till 5:30pm. Kids and their parents, friends, families and yayas lined-up for a photo op with Mr. SquarePants on stage, for which he willingly obliged. Then when everyone had had their picture taken with the big yellow spongy fellow, SpongeBob SquarePants even broke into a nifty little song and dance number that had the tots and tykes screaming and cheering with delight!

And that was just the beginning. For those who liked their brains to be teased, Giant Puzzle Boards awaited them and it was a blast for all to try and solve them. Bubble Machines spewed out crystal clear bubbles that filled the tent, giving the illusion that everyone in it was underwater in SpongeBob's world! And other super activities included Balloon Twisting, Face Painting and Glitter Tattoos.

Being a SMART Kid Prepaid event, SpongeBob wasn't the only familiar character on stage. Lo' and behold, a grand stage appearance by SMART Kid mascots Sam, Marty and Kimi drew wild cheers from the kids in the "underwater" tent as they too engaged in a cool dance number, flanked by other SMART Kid back-up dancers dressed in equally yellow garb. At 4pm, the fun continued with kiddie shows and raffles. And every kid went home with a SMART Kid goodie bag to keep the memories of a fun-tastic Sunday alive!

SMART Kid and SMART Kid Prepaid subscribers automatically got in for free! For SMART subscribers (Addict Mobile, SMART Buddy, SMART Infinity, SMART Gold or Talk N' Text) just download any 2 SpongeBob SquarePants content, like a logo for example. And if you're a non-SMART subscriber, just purchase a SMART Kid SIM or swap your non-SMART SIM—and you can do all this at any of the future SMART Kid and SMART Kid Prepaid events!

For a list of cool stuff and downloads on SpongeBob SquarePants, simply text BOB to 357. If you want cool SpongeBob logos on your celfone, just text KIDS LOGO <KEYWORD> (Ex. KIDS LOGO SBOB2) and send to 357. For picture messages, just text KIDS PIC <KEYWORD> (Ex. KIDS PIC SBOBHI) to 357. Or try downloading SMS Calendar Logos by texting KIDS CAL SBOB to 357.

So be a smart kid and sign up for SMART Kid or SMART Kid Prepaid today so you too can be part of all these wild and wacky parties that even the parents enjoy! It's happening again on Saturday, December 4 in SM Cagayan De Oro and Sunday, December 5 in SM Iloilo. Get a SMART Kid SIM, put your game face on, get smart and party!

Snapshots of SpongeBob SquarePants in the Rockwell Tent

Yciar Ledesma and SMART's Tina Montinola with their little ones Joaquin and Ari

SMART Mascots Kimi, Marty and Sam perform a dance number

Snapshots of SpongeBob SquarePants in SM Megamall

Diehard SpongeBob fan

Glitter Tattooing always a hit

Balloon twisting one of the many activities

"I love you SpongeBob"

SMART Kid endorser with (from left) our Quest Kids

ENTER HERE

Parents signing up their kids for SMART Kid Prepaid

Cool and the gang

Snapshots of SpongeBob SquarePants in SM City North Edsa

SMART Kids take part in a little game

Parents and kids browse the SpongeBob download catalogue

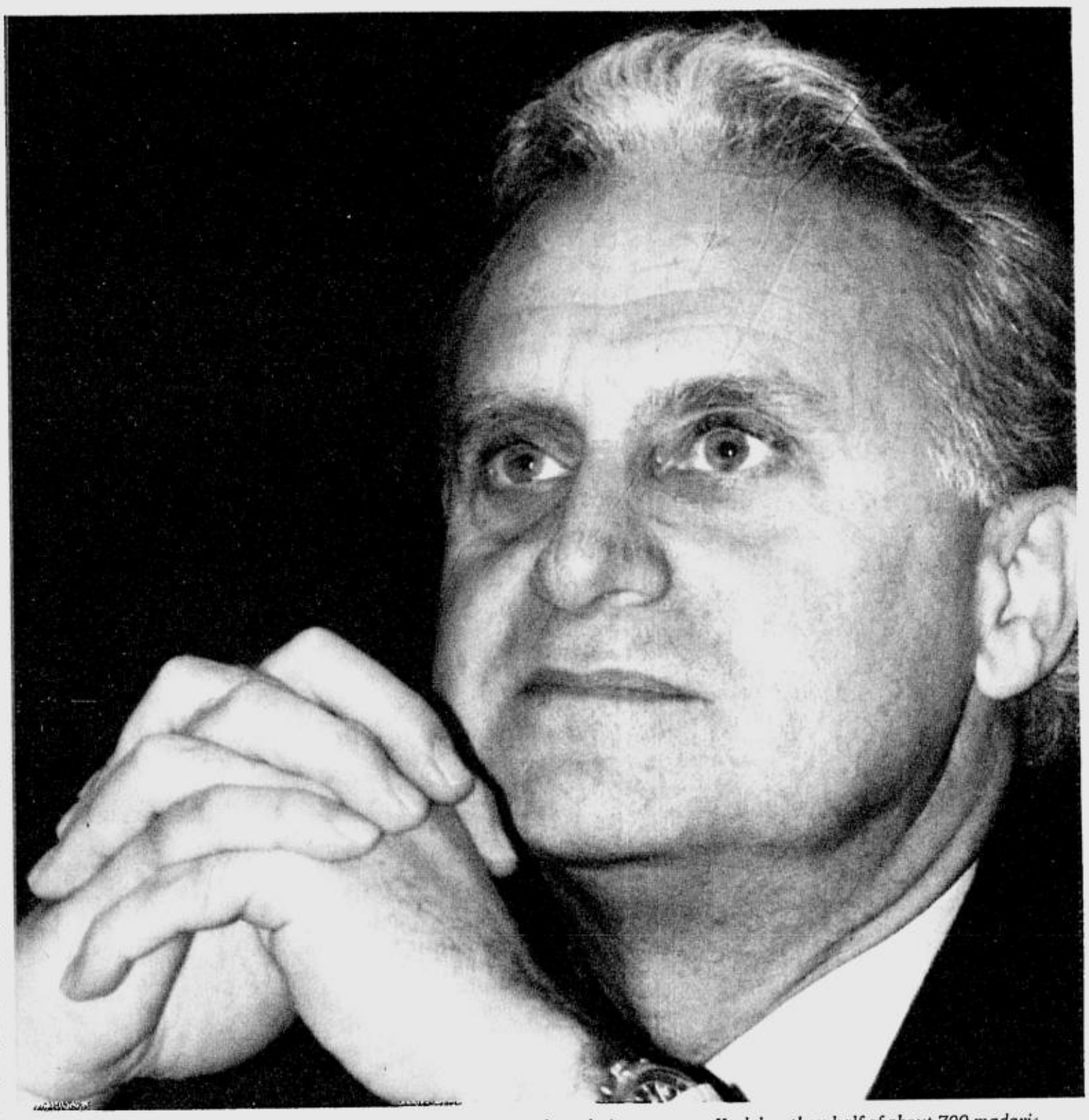
SM City North Edsa gets smart with the SpongeBob SquarePants mall blitz

Encounter

By Bambi L. Harper

The American in Manila

U.S. President George W. Bush's point man in the Philippines, Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, shares his insights on what we can expect in the next four years of the Bush administration, and what he does when he's not worrying about terrorism and world peace



SIM: You have just returned from Mindanao. How do you assess the political, economic and social situation over there?

Ricciardone (R): Quite a dramatic change for the better since my first visits in 2002. When I first visited Basilan, I saw classroom huts not far outside Maluso destroyed by the Abu Sayyaf terrorists, at which teachers had been murdered.

But on my most recent visit last month with USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios, I visited the national high school at Isabela, where USAID is working in partnership with the school, its parent-teacher group, and the Ayala Foundation in the CLIC ("Computer Literacy and Internet Connection") Program. CLIC had set up numerous computers for the students and teachers and trained them to use the Internet as a teaching resource. Just think: kids and teachers in Isabela right now may be reading these words on their desktop computers in Basilan. Two years ago, they would never have seen your work or even know that it exists.

In Maluso and Isabela, the communities, with USAID assistance under our small and medium scale infrastructure program, are nearing completion on RO-RO (roll-on roll-of) terminals, to further link up Basilan to the national economy. Seaweed farming is booming. Our driver in Isabela proudly pointed out the first Jollibee to open in Basilan—in which he had invested using his own increased earnings!

I was also pleased but not very surprised that Christian women leaders of one NGO in Basilan waxed eloquent about the new security and stability on their island. What did surprise me was their compassion for the wives and children left behind by the Abu Sayyaf males, who had either fled, gone to prison, or been killed. These Christians were dismayed over reports that a powerful local Muslim politician was compelling Abu Sayyaf families to sell off their lands to him below its value. Now that's a dramatic turn-around.

SIM: What can the citizens of Manila do together with the people of Mindanao to generate more respect for each other's culture and point of view?

R: Support education! Do everything imaginable to support public and widely-accessible private education before it is too late. Raise revenues. Prosecute those responsible for the unconscionable corruption that deprives teachers and kids of quality textbooks. Volunteer. Raise funds and donate to charitable foundations that have a proven record for improving access to quality education beyond the fine education available to the privileged elite. Of course as a former teacher and a parent, I am biased in favor of the power of education. It may be "soft power," but it is the most effective power for citizens to take charge of their lives and their communities and their country.

Our Mission here has been especially proud to support an initiative by House Speaker de Venecia to bring young university graduates from Mindanao to work with members of the House as interns.

And why not establish internships in businesses and local government in Mindanao for young people from Luzon and the Visayas? The American Peace Corps Volunteers (not all of them young) who are experiencing precisely such internship-like programs all return to the US feeling that they have learned far more than they purport to teach in their local Filipino communities. DFA USEC Edsel Custodio tells me he is promoting such an internal Peace Corps model for the Philippines; other Filipinos, too, have told me they are thinking such thoughts...

SIM: In what ways can the U.S. help with the peace process in Mindanao?

R: I see three principal ways: economic development assistance, political support, and security assistance:

I believe our USAID development assistance programs are making a real difference in Mindanao. I commend to you for example the 30-minute TV documentary, "Arms to Farms," reporting how we have worked with local communities to help 25,000 former MNLF combatants develop good livelihood through the farming of seaweed, fish, corn, and rice. Other programs we support also seem to be helping spread peaceful conditions--though they also require a modicum of peace to get underway. Microfinance projects. Well-family clinics run by competent, caring nurse-widwives who are also keen businesswomen and educators in family planning options. Environmental management projects. CLIC and other education projects.

As the White House announced in May 2003, we also stand ready to contribute to the political dynamics of the peace process, to the extent all parties welcome us to do so, through the expertise of the United States Institute of Peace. USIP has worldwide experience in conflict resolution, and its experts can share the lessons learned the hard way from other conflicts. Later this month, for example, the USIP is sponsoring the visit of a distinguished soldier-statesman, retired General Anthony Zinni, who has incomparable expertise in international peacekeeping and monitoring operations. The USIP can offer other assistance as well, like support in comparative research on such thorny issues as ancestral domain. But we don't seek to intrude in any mediation role, or otherwise interfere in a political process that seems to be getting more seriously underway.

Finally, security assistance is no less important a contribution. In the past three years, we have stepped up support both to the AFP and the PNP and other law enforcement authorities including the Coast Guard and the Justice department to strengthen the rule of law against terrorists and other criminal elements from Luzon to Mindanao.

SIM: The MILF themselves want the US involved in the peace process but the Malaysians don't. Is there a way the US can resolve the impasse?

R: I honestly don't see any impasse, as both the US Government and the independent USIP will respectfully become involved in the peace process only in the ways and to the extent that the parties to the conflict may welcome us to do so. Likewise, we fully respect Malaysia's very constructive role over many years in working for 'peace between the MILF and the national government, and we certainly do not seek to intrude on or supplant their successful and promising work in any way.

SIM: Some Generals claim there are two Jemaah Islamiyah (terrorist) camps in Mindanao but the President and top defense officials do not seem to be overly concerned. Now that the MILF has agreed to have the area inspected, would you know what the status of these camps is?

R: I really do not have a good sense of the numbers of Jemaah Islamiya people in the Philippines, or where they are located. I suspect there is much overlap in the identity of JI people with others, like the Abu Sayyaf, and perhaps elements of the MILF, who ignorantly and even blasphemously pervert one of the world's great divine faiths as they claim religious justification for murdering people and taking hostages.

SIM: The Council of Foreign Relations in a special study states that madaris (Islamic) schools in Mindanao do not prepare their students for gainful employment because they teach mainly religious subjects. Students cannot therefore compete for mainstream jobs or qualify for university. Is the U.S. helping prepare a more secular curriculum as a companion to the religious one?

R: I think local people and national educational establishments,, not foreigners like us, should decide the content of what their children should be taught. If they want our research or other assistance, we'd be glad to consider any requests. I have heard from some teachers in our teacher training seminars of their great interest in developing their own teaching materials.

(Writer's note: Indeed, according to USAID Education Advisor Dr. Thomas Kral, less than half of about 700 madaris in the country offer education in subjects other than religious instruction and Arabic language. But efforts to change the situation are being made as DepEd national and DepEd ARMM attempt to produce public school materials that recognize Muslim values while expanding their curricula in Math, Science and English.)

SIM: Most Filipinos are concerned about corruption. One reads about the money laundering act and the U.S.'s concern over terrorist money. Has the Philippine government specifically asked for help with respect to persons who may be guilty of money laundering or amassing hidden wealth?

R: We have been working closely with the Philippine government at its request, to strengthen legal protections against money laundering since at least 2001, when it passed an important Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA). As that Act alone was insufficient to meet international standards, we have been supporting the government quite intensively to produce and implement amendments to the 2001 AMLA passed, as I recall, in March 2003. In addition, we do share intelligence on specific international money laundering activities.

SIM: In line with the *pensionado* system that existed before the war and which aimed to develop professionals for Philippine government, would not reviving these scholarships for middle level technocrats for certain bureaus like Customs result in reducing corruption?

R: I'm not familiar with that system, but

To page 7

By Amee R. Enriquez

NICKY SERING

The Chick Who Writes Chick Lit

The hectic, multifaceted life of writer Tara FT Sering exemplifies the kind of crazy-quilt backstory that fuels her hip, energetic passion for creativity

TARA FT Sering (the "F" in her name stands for February, the month when she was born), the local best-selling writer and editor of "chick lit," has a confession to make. "I'm single right now and I'm not really dating," she says.

This revelation might come as a surprise to fans of her books, since its main themes are mostly about falling in love and finding "the one." In "Getting Better," the heroine Karen breaks up with her asshole boyfriend and ends up with her good friend Bert. In "Almost Married," Karen tries to figure out if she's ready to take the plunge.

But unlike her female heroine who is bold, outgoing and very much sexually aware, 29-year-old Tara is almost the complete opposite. She is shy, unassuming and self-conscious. She emphasizes that the characters in her books are not necessarily autobiographical. "Some of the characters are based on one person but a lot of them are a mix of friends, my sisters, my relatives, and a bit of myself. It's fiction, fiction, fiction!" she says with a laugh.

Even if Tara says that the characters of the books are an imaginary concoction, the two books "Getting Better" and "Almost Married," along with the other book titles published by Summit Books where Tara is editor, are bestsellers. More than 10,000 copies per title have been sold, no mean feat for books published locally. "The popularity of these books rests on their accessibility. I think 'chick lit' is successful because it has long been neglected," Tara says.

The books are successful because the U.K. originated concept of "chick lit" has been adapted to the Filipina palate. Tara's first book, "Getting Better," was initially given as a complimentary copy along with an issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine Philippines in 2002 to test the waters. The unprecedented move was a risk that paid off.

Living her dream

There is no doubt that Tara loves what she does. It is obvious in the way she talks about her job. "I feel that I'm not wasting my time, especially now that feedback is instantaneous. I feel like I'm in the right industry. I'm doing something right because it's appreciated by a lot of people. The audience is my age group, and it's a big thing for me because I know this age group more than anyone," she says.

Tara discovered her love for writing stories when she was 15. At that time, her mother brought home a typewriter and she happily click-clacked on the keys while dreaming up stories. "I've always wanted to become a writer. I never promised my parents when I was five that someday I'd become a lawyer or a doctor. But if I wasn't writing, I would probably be an interior designer or a packaging designer," she says. "If studying for something wasn't a consideration, I'd probably be a scientist. Also I'd like to be a traveler, but I don't know if I can make money that way or if that's even a job if there's no writing or photography involved," she says.

After finishing her degree in literature at De La Salle University in Taft, Tara started off in public relations, before becoming a researcher at the University of the Philippines, and then press officer for Lynonnaise des Eaux.

In 2000, she became managing editor of Cosmopolitan Philippines and consequently the associate editor in 2002. Her move to Summit Books, a division of Summit Media, in 2003 as editor in charge of developing and producing book titles has been equally successful.

Aside from her two bestsellers, Tara's other published work is quite impressive. She wrote "All the Right Moves," a novel for young adults published by Adarna House, which has a choose-your-own-adventure concept.

Tara has also published short stories and essays. These have appeared in the University of the Philippines' "Likhaan: Best of Poetry & Fiction" for four consecutive years, from 1997 to 2001, and in "Creative Nonfiction: A Reader's Guide." Her work has also been anthologized in "Babaylan: Fiction and Poetry by Filipino and Filipino-American Writers" published by Aunt Lute Books in San Francisco, California. Her collection of short stories, "Reconnaissance," published by the UP Press, has also received good reviews.

She is a veteran of prestigious writing workshops, like the National Writers' Workshop in Dumaguete and the UP Writers' Workshop. Her novel, "Almost Married," won the Philippine National Book Award in 2003.

Interestingly enough, though Tara is well known for her books about modern women, her literary influences are mostly male. Her strongest literary influence, she says, was former teacher Gregorio Brilliantes, with whom her writing style has been compared. Aside from him, she also looks up to John Updike, John Cheever, F. Scott Fitzerald, Gemino Abad and E.M. Forster. Among the women writers, she mentions Toni Morrison, Elizabeth McCracken, Anne Tyler and Bharati Mukherjee as influences.

Tara sees writing as a discipline and not something that is dependent on mood, although she confesses that writing for her comes in spurts. "I'd go on for days revising an opening paragraph over and over, and then dropping the whole thing for a couple more days, before I get into a writing fit. I won't stop until the carpal tunnel thing becomes a real risk and my eye bags are pouches. I can usually go for two days straight and then I crash. I still can't seem to accept that I'm not young *na* and that these thesis-night writing runs are more physically challenging," she says.

Varied interests

Tara and her three other siblings are all artistically inclined, despite the fact that her mom runs a business and her dad is a lawyer. Her older sister is also a writer, her younger brother a photographer, and her younger sister a painter. It is a running joke among the siblings that her mom is their patron in their artistic pursuits.

Tara's interests are not limited to writing, however. Apart from writing she cites travel, cooking and mixing cocktails as passions. "I like cooking but I can't seem to follow a recipe if my life depended on it. I'm not a consistently happy eater so I'm not always hunting for great food like many of my friends, but the whole process of preparing food gives me a therapeutic high."

Tara also likes watching movies. "I like most kinds except for the doomsday and city-wreck types. It's too stressful for me." She has also recently discovered Asian movies. "My friend Paolo Manalo is my Asian movie coach and recommends really fabulous movies, from Wong Kar Wai films to Steven Chow flicks, to Pinoy movies. I'm proud to say that I discovered my fave Pinoy movie on my own, *'May Minamahal'* by Joey Reyes."

Tara says that she has the habit of "forever picking up brochures or flyers or business cards for dance classes and craft lessons," but never really signing up for them. She also enjoys hanging out in coffee shops even without a book, as doing this can bring on serious philosophical and political discussions.

Personal relationships

It is inevitable that Tara be asked about her take on personal relationships. After all, this is the main theme of the books that made her popular as a writer and readers consider her an authority of some sort. "I used to have very cut-and-dried opinions on what relationships should and shouldn't be, but I find now that I'm about to turn 30 that I know very little. Things that happen in my personal life and in the lives of people I know, like siblings and friends, always constantly destroy my preconceived notions."

At the moment, she is single. "I'm not very good at meeting people on pre-arranged dates by friends. I feel more comfortable slowly realizing that I enjoy the company of this person maybe two hours into a conversation but once I do, I'm very *madaldal*.

"I have a personal motto I try to live by, which is to regret nothing, although I do of course regret some. But my goal is to reach a point where my choices won't make me regret anything. That's coupled with being true to myself at whatever I do, although that's not always the case either. But I find a lot of satisfaction in trying to be the things I want to be."

And with all the good things that have been happening to her lately, Tara has more than enough reason to be satisfied.

First Person

By Alya B. Honasan

There Must Be A Dog Heaven

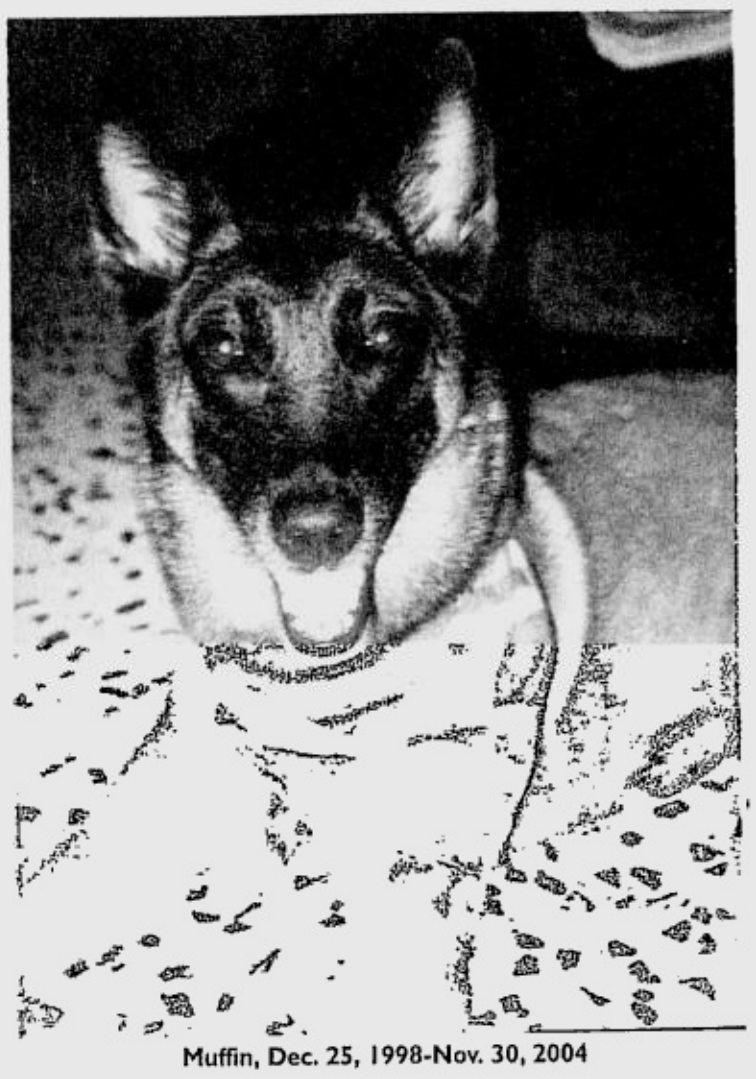
There will be so much pain when a beloved pet's short life ends, but it's a risk you take for the privilege of being touched by these gentlest and most faithful of God's creatures

HAVE you ever had to bury a dog you loved very much? It must be one of the most heartbreaking ordeals possible, seeing a pet who once sprang to life at the mere sound of your voice, now a lifeless weight being lowered into the earth, never to jump into your arms again.

On September 15, 2002, in a special animal issue of SIM, I wrote about my Belgian Malinois, Muffin, and how she had been my salvation with a wet nose, a pet who, by simply being herself, helped me on the road to recovery from clinical depression. If she hadn't already arrived, a year-and-a-half old, with that name, I would have called her Prozac. And in our four wonderful years together, she brought more happiness into my life than every feel-good drug in this world possibly could.

Last November 30, after a vigil at her vet's and her day-long battle with a sudden infection that sent her into spasms and fatally raised her body temperature, Muffin died at 4 in the morning, 25 days before her sixth birthday on Christmas Day. We buried her under a *santol* tree in our garden in my prized silk *malong* from Marawi, and she wore her favorite red collar and heart-shaped tag. I also sent with her a rosary, a face towel of my mom's, a scarf my *kuya* gave her, her favorite ball, her toothbrush, the mitt brush she loved to have smoothed over her fur, a picture of me with her and my teddy bear Dick, and three of her favorite rawhide stick snacks, all wrapped in a *tubao* I used to tie around her neck. My *kuya*, who gave Muffin to me four-and-a-half years ago as a gift, was there to help shovel the earth over her body. He was my tower of strength when I almost couldn't let my baby go. He is engraving a small stone with Muffin's epitaph—"Life was short but sweet."

I am profoundly heartbroken and devastated by her death. She was the little star of my life, my unconditional lover and cuddly best friend, with whom I could communicate without words, and who returned every bit of the fierce love I gave her tenfold. I still cannot fathom the idea of coming home and not seeing her brown eyes light up to welcome me, or not having her wet nose poke my hand as my alarm rings to signal our daily morning walk. I stumble through the part of the house I shared with her and my mother, and am bombarded with signs of her contented life—her food bowl in the corner, her after-bath moisturizing oil, the lemon yellow raincoat I bought her in Canada to wear during drizzly walks (and which always stopped school children in their tracks, as they squealed with glee at the sight). I see her leash, her dog food, her bed, her nail clipper. I cannot shift my gaze from one part of my home to another without having my heart torn into even smaller pieces than I had ever thought possible.



Muffin, Dec. 25, 1998-Nov. 30, 2004

Yet, as my mother and I sit, bonded by grief, I make my argument for someday, somehow, having another dog in this house. Muffin is irreplaceable, that is the truth; there will never be another dog like her in this world, and in our lives. But hopefully, another dog will one day bring her own unique brand of delight into our days. As our already tired hearts go through the wringer again, we agree that the agony is a small price to pay for the experience of loving and being loved by a dog. There will be so much pain when a beloved pet's short life ends, but it's a risk you take for the privilege of being touched by these gentlest and most faithful of God's creatures.

I remember Muffin through my tears, and I cannot stop giving thanks that she was in my life. After she died, I texted friends who knew her, asking for prayers and reminding them of three valuable lessons Muffin taught me. First, she lived completely in the moment. The sight of her waiting for a treat or warming up for our wrestling sessions was priceless—all focus, enthusiasm and openness. Even in my yoga practice, where being in the moment is key, I cannot hold a candle to my dog's gift for being totally immersed in the here and now.

Second, she loved, and never hesitated to show it. One vigorous wag of Muffin's tail, and I knew she was glad to see me, and that I was the most important thing in her life. Yes, no matter how bad my day was or how nasty I was getting.

Finally, she taught me the simplest but most life-changing lessons on forgiveness. I would snap at her on bad days, ignore her, even push her away, and she remained undaunted. She would come back, offering the same acceptance and understanding in a wriggling 54-lb package of sheer empathy. How bad a person, I'd think, could I possibly be if I am perfection in this wonderful animal's eyes?

I drew immense comfort from the words of friends who knew how I had moved heaven and earth to make my dog happy. "You gave her a wonderful life here," a friend told me. "She must be bragging about it now in dog heaven to other dogs who weren't so lucky." Only four years together, I said, but among the best years of my—and Muffin's—life. She was an angel who came, fixed me up, and left when she felt her job was done and I had reached my 40th year with minimal damage.

She even died with the utmost consideration. After I spent a whole night stroking her and wiping up her mess, she looked at me softly, and her breath became slow and peaceful, like she was asleep. I nodded off to sleep myself for a couple of minutes, only to wake up with a start and find her gone. It was a quiet exit that happened when I wasn't looking, and my dearest friends say it was probably because she didn't want me bawling over her dying breath.

Oh, how I will mourn her. But I promised Muffin I would never let grief defeat me as it did in the past. I will be happy again, and I will not let the gift of joy she put back in my life ever go to waste.

That's why I know there is a dog heaven. If you're one of those people who believe animals just wither away and turn to dust, forever lost, please think again. Where could all that goodness and beauty have come from?

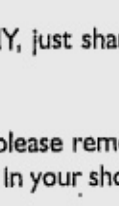
I once read that whenever God is disappointed in man, He calls home a dog to remind him that love still truly does exist. Well, God must be a believer again if he's jammin' with my baby in that pet playground in the sky.

Muffin's gift could only have come from a wonderful place. And wherever that place may be, I know that's where my dog has finally gone home.

Godspeed, baby. Mommy will never forget. Q

The World

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote



An Early Christmas Invitation

The validity of Christmas should not be judged only during the holiday season. For it is only when the little baby in us grows up, bids goodbye to Bethlehem, and walks bravely to Jerusalem that we can truly say that Christmas still has a meaning for us today

PASKONG Misa is our way of inviting you to join us in gathering our friends again. Come to Paskong Misa on December 19, Sunday, at 5 in the afternoon here at the Center for Migrant Youth on Cordillera Street, Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City.

After the Mass, linger awhile for Paskong Salusalo, and Paskong Haranahan (Christmas caroling), led by our lovable Ate Pining Santiago and her DZRM (Radyo Magasin) Haranistas.

Sometime before Christmas Day, CMY will give gifts to needy babies and children (ages 0-10). Get your own children to share their "baby goodies" with the poor: infant formula, baby food, baby clothes, baby soap, baby powder, useable children's clothing and footwear, toys, biscuits, and candies, and other "baby things." Send them to us before December 19.

If you want to give to CMY, just share your table with us.

Gifts from your table

In your next market trip, please remember our Center for Migrant Youth. Include us in your shopping list. Perhaps one or two cans of food (sardines, corned beef), coffee, milk, sugar, cooking oil, rice, condiments, noodles, bath and laundry soap—anything you can afford to share with 22 migrant and street youths in our house.

You need not give all the goods mentioned above, just a piece or two (like the five barley loaves and two fish given by the little boy in Jn. 6:9) which when entrusted in the hands of Jesus could feed a multitude.

My fond request :

No personal gifts for me please, not even flowers, on December 19, my birthday.

Sincerely in the Name of Jesus,
of Jesus only and of Jesus always,
Fr. Ben

* * *

Is Christmas Relevant?

Some people say that Christmas is irrelevant because Christianity is irrelevant. So they want to abolish Christmas along with Christianity because they say both are passé. This argument is not new at all. It is as old as Christianity itself because the "abolition of Christ" was precisely the high point in Christ's, and in every Christian's essential crisis.

The "irrelevance" of Jesus of Nazareth was the sign of contradiction about which Simeon spoke (Luke 2:34), and with which Christianity is marked until the end of time. The Christian message will always be assaulted and challenged for being irrelevant. The true Christian will always be crucified for being irrelevant.

As long as there are challenges and crucifixions like these, it can only mean that the Christian message as lived by authentic Christians can still prick consciences and disturb the comfortable, hence, cannot be taken for granted. It is only when the Christian message begins to become "relevant," "fashionable" and conformist" that we should start worrying about its validity.

The validity of Christmas should not be judged only during the Christmas season when everybody feels nice and sweet about everybody else, but after Christmas when life swings back to the business of loving, forgiving, trusting and serving those you don't feel nice and sweet about, and when there are no photographers and reporters to cover your "Christian charity." For it is only when the little baby in us grows up, bids goodbye to Bethlehem, and walks bravely to Jerusalem that we can truly say that Christmas, indeed, still has a meaning for us today. Q

Art

Trip7, an exhibit featuring works by a group of local and New York-based Filipino artists working in different mediums such as ceramics, photography, wood, varnishes and painting, until Dec. 20 at The Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City. For details, call 897-7877.

Romulo Olazo presents recent paintings of his life-long "Diaphanous" series at Finale Art Gallery, 4/F, LaO Centre, Pasay Road, Makati City until Dec. 14.

Parabola, a two-man exhibit by Popo San Pascual and Reb Belleza at Mag:net Gallery ABS located at the Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City until Dec. 30.

Romulo Olazo's "Diaphanous," on view at Finale Art Gallery

Bagong Panahon, a group exhibit featuring the works in different mediums in 6' x 3' artworks by Noel el Farol, Irma Lacorte, Amiel Roldan, Ruel Caasi, Rene Cuvos, Mideo Cruz, Mac Valdizno, Rachel de Loyola, Iggy Rodriguez, Eleizer Cabangon, Jeho Bitancor, Alex Ilastra and Eric Guanzon, from Dec. 10 to Jan. 4 at Kulay Diwa Art Galleries, 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque. For details, call 826-0574.

Weaving Lives: The Art of Saori, an exhibit that focuses on a unique Japanese weaving technique that is used as therapy by mentally challenged individuals, until Jan. 15 at Museo Pambata along Roxas Boulevard, Manila. For details, call 523-1797 to 98.

After the Fact, an exhibit by visual artist Juan Alcazaren featuring idiosyncratic materials, until January 2005 at The Edge Gallery, UP Vargas Museum, Diliman, QC.

Ang Baybayin at ang Manlilikha, an exhibit about our ancient writing system, the Baybayin, and its present-day interpretations of artists in the form of calligraphy, beads, sculpture, among others, ongoing at Bahay Nakpil-Bautista in Quiapo. Free lessons on writing the baybayin are offered.

Grace and Gestures, recent drawings by Angelo V. Magno from Dec. 13 to Jan. 3 at the Art Elements Gallery, The Artwalk, SM Megamall. For details, call 634-0203.

Music

Classical singer Joscephine Gomez celebrates her 50th year of survival from cancer with a concert of German Lieder (art songs) and Filipino songs which make use of nature imagery. The concert, **A Tribute to Nature**, will be held on Dec. 11 at 7:45 p.m. at Vieux Chalet Swiss Restaurant in Antipolo City. With pianist Carlos Perion, the soprano will interpret popular Lieder set to music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Felix Mendelssohn and Franz Schubert. Guests include soprano Thea Perez and tenor Jimboy Calisang. For bookings, call 697-0396 and 687-7898.

Nyoy Volante and Mannos will treat their fans, family and friends to a free Christmas concert dubbed **Nyoy to the World** this Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Polo Field of the Alabang Country Club. There will be a free shuttle service from the Alabang Town Center to the Alabang Country Club exclusively for concert-goers. Get into the spirit of the season as Nyoy and Mannos perform a selection of well-loved Christmas songs, as well as their own hits. The show will also feature the Mandaluyong Children's Choir and pianist Martin Avila.

Noel Sings for VOICE, a fund raising concert to support Voice Network's volunteer exchange programs in the Philippines, featuring Noel Cabangon, with guests Hannah of Session Road and the De La Salle Innersoul, Dec. 11, 7 p.m. at SM Megamall Cinema 4. Tickets at P200. P350 and P500. For inquiries, call 928-8969 / 09189375075

Paco Park Presents One Great Christmas Show on Dec. 10 with the Temple Hill International School students showcasing their musical talents in a merry program to remember. On Dec. 17, the talented students of pianist Richelle Rivera formally ends the 2004 Christmas season at Paco Park in San Marcelino, Manila. Shows start at 6 p.m. Free admission.

Pops Fernandez pays tribute to Beyonce Knowles, Jennifer Lopez, Britney Spears, Janet Jackson and Madonna in her upcoming concert, **It Girl**, on Dec. 11 at the Ultra. The concert will also serve as a sneak peek to Pops' upcoming album under Warner Records. Tickets available at Ticketworld outlets (tel. 891-5699).

Heavenly voices of the Heritage Family Choir will once again fill the air of The Heritage Hotel Manila with its extensive repertoire for the holiday season from Dec. 16 to 24 at the Lobby. The mixed voices of the choir provide its audience a stimulating musical environment with its lively renditions of popular Christmas songs. For details, call 854-8888.

The **San Miguel Master Chorale** graces the pop concert stage as guest performer in the year-ender solo concert of Martin Nievera, "All You Need is Love (A Brass Kicking Christmas Concert)," on Dec. 10 at the PICC Plenary Hall featuring the big-band sound of a 20-piece brass ensemble under the musical direction of Louie Ocampo. Guest performer is Fil-American Camile Velasco of "American Idol" fame. The SMMC will also be singing at The San Miguel Christmas Music Festival, a series of Yuletide-themed concerts at The Podium (Dec. 5), Shangri-La Plaza (Dec. 16) and SM Makati (Dec. 17). Some of these performances will be staged together with The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra. (The SMPO will be having a solo concert at Greenbelt 3 on Dec. 10.) On Dec. 15, the SMMC will perform at the D.L. Umali Hall in UP Los Baños, Laguna. For details, visit www.smfpa.com.

Cinema

NCCA-CVRP Film Club presents **In Focus: A Salute to Contemporary Filipino Directors** featuring the films of Jeffrey Jeturian at Tanghalang Leandro V. Locsin, NCCA Building, 633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Films to be shown are "*Pila Balde*" on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. and "*Sana Pag-ibig Na*" on Dec. 17, 2 p.m. Resource persons will be Armando Lao on Dec. 10 who will talk about Writing a Screenplay that is Uniquely Filipino while Jeturian will discuss The Present State of Filipino Films on Dec. 17. Admission is free. For inquiries, call Rosswil or Sunny at 527-2207 or 527-2192 local 308.

pelikula@titusbrandsma presents eye-popping visual films on Dec. 11 namely "Russian Ark" by Alexander Sokurov and "Naked States" by Arlene Donnelly. Titus Brandsma Center is located at 24 Acacia St. Cubao, Quezon City. For details, contact Francis at 839-7351.

Onstage

Dramatis Personae stages Henrik Ibsen's mystery-romance drama **Lady From the Sea** with a gala performance on Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The play is about a young woman torn between the convenience brought about by the love and commitment of her aging husband versus the passion brought about by the irresistible desire of a mysterious seafarer out in the sea. For inquiries, call 722-4205.

Food

Italianni's offers **Fresh Baked Holiday Treats** as gift idea this Yuletide season such as Cinnamon Roll, Hungarian Roll and Ensaymada. For those who want a taste of ham and sausage, there's the Split Ham Roll and the Sausage Roll. For the sweet-toothed, there's the Tea Ring Bread and Mango Strudel. Italianni's also has Christmas Baskets of Foccacia and Tuscan Bread with a bottle of Balsamic Vinegar and Herbed Olive Oil Dip or you can include a bottle from Italianni's wine selection. Italianni's has branches at Greenbelt 2 and Glorietta 4 in Makati, Connecticut in Greenhills, Alabang Town Center, SM City Bicutan and in Eastwood City, Libis

A scene from Dramatis Personae's "Lady from the Sea"

T.G.I. Friday's is celebrating its 10th year this month with a sumptuous selection of Rock 'N Roll Classic items. Start off with Loaded Cheese Fries teamed up with the new Jack Daniel's Burger. There's also the Country Chicken Fried Chicken served with hearty country gravy. For a balanced taste of land and sea, there's the Surf & Turf featuring a thick, juicy char-grilled New York strip steak along with savory Jack Daniel's shrimp. Friday's also offers Coke Ice Cream Float and Cherry or Vanilla Coke. The Cherry Coca-Cola Cake is the ultimate dessert to cap your dining experience. Friday's has branches in Glorietta 3, Robinson's Manila, Hotel Rembrandt-Quezon City, Sta. Lucia East and Alabang Town Center.

The Heritage Family Choir sings popular Christmas carols at the Lobby of Heritage Hotel

Atbp

Caterers, restaurateurs and others planning to start or manage a catering business are invited by MB&G/ProActive to its Managing a **Catering Business Seminar-Workshop** on Dec. 13-21 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Ipanema Bar & Restaurant, Eastwood City, Libis, QC. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis at tel. 687-1787 or 0915-4315375.

Discovery Suites supports **World Wildlife Fund Philippines'** efforts to maintain the balance of ecologically significant areas like the Tanon Strait in the Visayas. Simply purchase an adorable long-snouted spinner stuffed toy at the front desk for only P130 and proceeds of which will be donated for the **Tanon Strait conservation efforts**. For WWF Conservation Circle cardholders, a 10 percent discount on Discovery Suites local residents' package is given. For details, call 920-7923 or 436-7311.

The **University of the Philippines College of Arts and Letters** marks its **21st year** with a full week of celebratory activities. There will be a First General Homecoming of 1984, 1989 and 1994 alumni on Dec. 11, from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Atrium of the New CAL Building in Diliman, Quezon City. Special guests are the 1979 (Silver) and 1964 (Ruby) graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences as well as the 1959 (Gold) graduates of the College of Liberal Arts. CAL, CAS and CLA alumni are requested to get in touch with Eve Mariano, Tere Peralta or Cory Villagracia of the CAL Dean's Office at 928-7508 or email Prof. Ramona S. Flores at ramona.flores@up.edu.ph.

American photographers Eddie Tapp and Tony L. Corbell will be two of the top foreign and local photographers who will give lectures during the **Photoworld Manila 2005**, the biggest photography event in Southeast Asia to be held from Feb. 4 to 7 at the Asian Institute of Management. Tapp will discuss digital imaging while Corbell will talk on portraiture. For reservations, call 843-5341 and 813-7420.

The **University of the Philippines Integrated School Batch 1985** will hold its **Grand Alumni Homecoming** on April 16, 2005 dubbed "20 on 2005". For more information, please email upis1985@yahoo.com. You can also contact Monique Isidro-Adalem at 0920-9505770 and Marilyn Pandela Desanito at (02) 929-7980 or (02) 453-6806.

Torres High School Batch 1983 will hold a **reunion** on Dec. 29 at Alicia Bldg., Juan Luna St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila. For details, please log on to ths83@yahoogroups.com or call Michelle de Guzman at 436-8440 / 0927-551-6379 or email pochinnie@yahoo.com.

Pops Fernandez holds a birthday concert at the Ultra

X-manila

The **CHS '55 Alumni Association** invites all 1955 graduates of Cavite High School to join its **golden homecoming and grand reunion** on Jan. 4 and 8 in Cavite City. The festivities will start in Caridad Elementary School at 7 a.m. on Jan. 4 with a day-long fun-filled activity at Portica de Gracia Resort, Kawit, Cavite. For details, call Lourdes Vinzon at (046) 4310518; Rogelio Co (046) 4312336; Pacifico Anglo (046) 4310625 and Lito Beltran (02) 813-7420 / 843-5341.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Ngâ

By Jess Abrera

Antipolo

An American...*from page 4*

we do assist various government agencies especially via the Anti Money Laundering Council and the Ombudsman, for example, by training technocrats at all levels. Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo can brief you on the results of our training support for his greatly expanded team of investigators. On the AFP side, the training and expertise in organizational reforms which we will provide through the Philippines Defense Reform project should go far both to deter corruption and to expose and punish those guilty of it.

SIM: Moving to less serious matters. You barely have time for yourself with all these problems at hand.

R: Right! But I love my work—these are not all problems; every problem is an opportunity!

SIM: When you do have some spare time, what do you prefer to do? Do you scuba dive or play golf or go fishing?

I hate golf, probably because I am so bad at it. I like fishing but have not had the time for it. I like scuba, sailing (though again I have little time), tennis, swimming, trekking, bicycling, and I read a lot. When in the US, I like gardening. I like cross-country skiing, too, but I've never served in a foreign country where there is much opportunity for that.

SIM:What is your greatest fear?

R: I can't say that I have directly experienced true fear, except momentarily in life-threatening situations. But I have experienced it vicariously, that is through others. I'm thinking of Iraqi friends of mine who were victims of unspeakable, unimaginable torture under Saddam Hussein, for example. Of course I have worries and anxieties. My main one is that we will not follow our parents' example and pass on a world to our children that is safer, freer, and more prosperous than the one that our parents passed on to us. Hence such problems as environmental degradation, widespread poverty, and other corollaries of global overpopulation do worry me.

SIM: Who are your favorite writers?

R: I hardly ever read fiction or poetry any more. Lots of non-fiction though, especially journalists who also write books like James Fallows, Robert Kaplan, Tom Friedman, David Ignatius, and William Langewiesche. There is a French scholar on Islam who I like, Giles Kappel, so I'll probably pick up his new book. Two books I've enjoyed in the past year are Lester Thurow's "Fortune Favors the Bold,' and the late Warren Zimmerman's "First Great Triumph," about America's emergence as a global power under Teddy Roosevelt. Both carry striking insights that are germane for the Philippines.

SIM: What is your greatest extravagance?

R:Two daughters!

SIM: What is your most marked characteristic?

R: Hmmm. Depends on the context. I like to think I'm friendly and open as a personality, and with a fair sense of humor. What I like to think is one thing, and what others think probably is another. What do you think?.

SIM: If there is one thing you could change about yourself, what would it be?

R: I've always wished I could play a musical instrument really well. Or at all!

After all, it's not giving him what he wants, it's about giving him what he needs.

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■ Business / B1
December inflation seen topping 8%

Tanong ng Bayan / A22
Salot ng illegal logging, bakit hindi masugpo?
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Forest rangers rarer than Philippine eagles

By Carlito Pablo

JOINING the Philippine eagle and the tamaraw in the endangered species list is the forest ranger.

"There are so few of them and, in some areas,

FOREST/ A22

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Int'l relief pours in

By TJ Burgonio and Volt Contreras

THE PLEA for help from the thousands of victims of killer cyclones that struck Luzon has been heard round the world.

Foreign governments and agencies yesterday stepped up relief aid for the Philippines after a series of storms ravaged Luzon, leaving over 1,300 people dead and missing, dam-

INTERNATIONAL/ A22

9 big loggers identified

GMA dared to cancel permits of companies

SENSING "all talk but no action" from President Macapagal-Arroyo, environmentalists in Aurora and Quezon challenged her to immediately cancel the permits of at least nine big logging companies in the two provinces where hundreds of people died from massive floods and landslides blamed on the rampant cutting of trees.

The Multi-Sectoral Action Group (MSAG) identified the companies as Pacific Timber Export Corp., Verdant Agro-Forest Development Corp., Inter-Pacific Forest Resources Corp., Industries Development Corp., RCC Timber Co., San Roque Sawmill Corp., Benson Realty Development Corp., Toplite Lumber Corp. and Green Circle Properties and Resources Inc.

The firms either have timber license agreements, integrated forest management agreements (Ifmas) or special private land timber licenses with the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources, the MSAG said in a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER from Baler, Aurora.

The operations of Green Circle, whose license covers 30,000 hectares, extend up to General Nakar in Quezon, southeast of Aurora, MSAG secretary Joey Estriber said.

The MSAG issued the challenge after Ms Arroyo talked tough against logging. She ordered on Saturday the suspension of all logging activity in the

9 BIG/ A21

HELPING HANDS: Rescuers carry 51-year-old Julia Stebusa to a helicopter of the 205th Presidential Airlift Wing in typhoon-struck Infanta, Quezon. Floodwaters have receded but relief has not yet reached thousands of victims in the town.

ROGER MARGALLO

85 bodies buried in one grave; Real survivors flee

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

IN GRIEF-BOUND Real town in Quezon, rescuers battling threats of epidemics couldn't do much more than bury all 85 bodies in one grave yesterday. In a private cemetery in Infanta, 69 bodies were shoved into apartment-type vaults.

There was simply no time to identify some of the dead. They were laid alongside those that had been identified and buried together in one swoop.

In the port of Real, the story was not about the dead from the storms but about the survivors—hundreds of them fighting for space on an interisland ferry that could carry only 100.

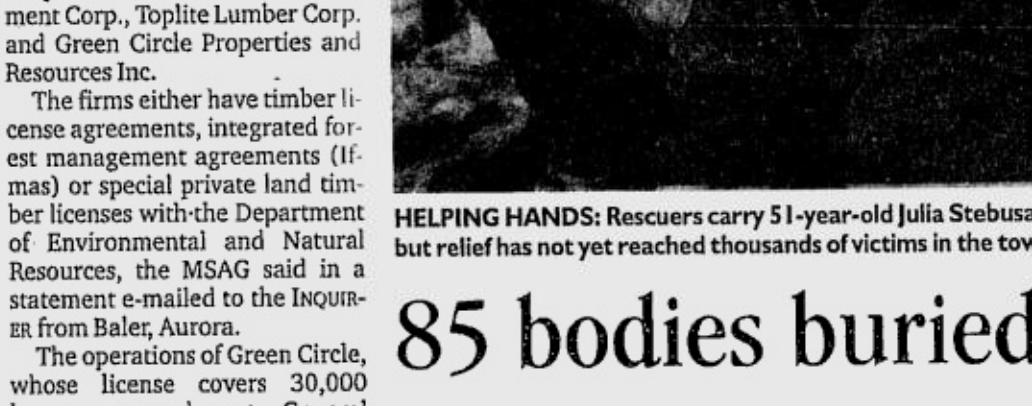
Armed Coast Guard men tried to restore order but were overwhelmed by the crush of people wanting to leave town.

"It's chaos. People are refusing to get off (the boat.) But we can't force them to get out because they also want to leave the place," said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Alberto Taule.

Other residents were fleeing by renting small private boats despite their vulnerability to rough waters. But the supply of fuel for the boats was also running out as most of the diesel and gasoline in town had been reserved for vehicles being used in the rescue effort.

In Aurora, to the north, where some 3,000 people were packed

85 BODIES/ A22



FOOD FOR STREET KIDS
Good Samaritans put up a soup kitchen to feed street children and give them early Christmas gifts at the Signal Village's covered court in Taguig, Metro Manila, yesterday.

ERIK ARAZAS

'He wanted to embrace everybody'

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

A BOILING storm attended Fr. Charlito Colendres' ordination 18 years ago on Dec. 2, 1986, in Dingalan, Aurora. As his road to the priesthood stretched and as his priestly life began, so did it end—with turbulence and suffering around him, with his hand reaching out to the poor crying for help and clinging on for dear life.

Father Cha lost his in order to save the lives of others.

Here was the true-to-life version of that popular painting of a shepherd bending deep by the side of a cliff to reach out to a sheep in distress. But Father Cha often also fancied himself a soldier, alert and ready at all times. Why, he even owned a gun. But that is getting ahead of the story. His bishop, Rolando Tria-Tirona, sometimes called him "Colonel."

Father Cha, 48, died last week, at the height of the fury of Tropical Depression "Winnie," which trailed two typhoons and was followed by another that battered eastern Luzon. More than 500 lives and thousands of houses were lost to landslides, flooding and rampaging torrents that descended from denuded

HE WANTED/ A4

Peru bet Miss World; RP's Karla in Top 5

SANYA, China—Peru's 20-year-old Ma. Julia Mantilla Garcia began her reign as Miss World 2004 on Sunday after she beat 106 other women to the title in China's second staging of the international beauty pageant.

The newly crowned Miss World earned $100,000 in prize money after edging out 20-year-old Miss Philippines Ma. Karla Bautista, 18-year-old Miss Dominican Republic Claudia Julissa Cruz-Rodriguez, 19-year-old Miss Poland Katarzyna Borowicz and 24-year-old Miss America Nancy Randall, who was a heavy favorite with London-based bookmakers.

"I was surprised, yes, very surprised but I am very happy, too," Mantilla Garcia told reporters.

PERU/ A21

AP

MISS Philippines Ma. Karla Bautista

REUTERS

MISS World 2004 Ma. Julia Mantilla Garcia

SC acts as economic catalyst

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE SUPREME Court decision opening up the country's mineral wealth to development by foreign mining companies transforms it into a catalyst of economic development, away from its high profile intervention as an arbiter in political stalemates.

It can be claimed as one of the most significant economy-related decisions of the court in at least the last two decades. Its impact extends beyond the economy. To call it a "landmark" decision trivializes its far-reaching significance.

More than liberalizing the interpretation of the nationalistic economic provisions of the Constitution, the decision redefined the outlook of the court. It took the court out of its accustomed role as ballast for political stability in response to the series of political crises that began with the collapse of the Estrada

SC ACTS/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

ORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience nostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming frequent ver eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of the coun- ry will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

OMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/12/06/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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TELCOS CONVINCE GMA

Palace opts for hiked VAT over franchise tax

by Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
and Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG is no longer bent on pushing for the imposition of a franchise tax on telecommunication companies but would instead seek an increase in the value-added tax (VAT) on telecom services.

A source said President Macapagal-Arroyo softened her stand on the proposed franchise tax following a meeting with telecom industry bigwigs over the weekend in Malacañang.

The President would instead maintain the VAT system on telecom providers but wants the rate raised from the current 10 percent to between 12 and 14 percent.

The source said the President emerged from the meeting with the top telecommunication executives with an "open mind" after she was briefed on the implications of switching from the VAT to franchise tax.

Telecom companies earlier warned that they would pass on the proposed franchise tax to their customers in the form of higher charges for phone and text services since this would be part of their operating cost. Unlike the VAT, the franchise tax is not tax deductible.

The top executives of the telecom companies explained that they would start paying the full 10 percent VAT by next year (after their tax perks, which allowed them to keep part of the VAT collections, lapse by yearend). This would generate at least P10 billion in additional revenues for the government.

The executives said that raising the VAT rate on phone services was more practical and would lead to more revenues than shifting to a franchise tax which would yield only P10 billion. The higher VAT rate would raise an additional P4 billion to P6 billion on top of the P10 billion.

The Palace had called the meeting to get the views of the telecom executives on the proposed franchise tax. The President earlier did the same with top officials of tobacco companies who agreed on a compromise formula on higher excise taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products to avert lengthy debates in Congress.

Malacañang said the President's hands-on strategy was necessary in view of the urgency of passing new tax measures to avert a credit downgrade.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye did not return the INQUIRER's calls, while spokespersons of the top two telecom firms, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.-Smart Communication and Globe Telecoms, said they could not get in touch with their top executives.

The VAT increase in lieu of the franchise tax was proposed by Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, one of the economic advisers of the President.

Salceda had branded the franchise tax "a very bad idea" that could doom one of the few bright spots in the Philippine economy.

Congressmen, however, are pushing for the imposition of a franchise tax on telecom firms.

They argued that if Lucio Tan, Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. and Philip Morris could agree to higher taxes on cigarettes and alcohol, why couldn't the telecom companies, which they called the "lords of the cell phone ring," do the same?

Rep. Abraham Mitra (LP, Palawan) posed this challenge to the phone companies which are resisting the proposed franchise tax on their gross income.

The lords of the cell phone ring Mitra was referring to were Manuel Pangilinan of PLDT-Smart, the Ayalas of Globe Telecoms and John Gokongwei of Digital Communications.

Mitra noted that telecommunication firms were earning billions from dropped calls and from the by-the-minute measuring of phone calls.

"The people are in effect telling the telecom giants to reimburse us, through our government, and in the form of a franchise tax, for the money you are getting from us from those dropped or rounded off to the next minute calls," Mitra said.

Mitra said it was either they accept a franchise tax or revert to the per-pulse billing system in which calls are metered on a pulse basis consisting of six seconds.

WE ARE FAMILY
INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and her grandson Ben Romualdez, son of PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, hand over a gift to an employee's child during the Philippine Daily Inquirer's annual Family Day held yesterday at the Assumption Convent gymnasium in San Lorenzo Village, Makati. Family Day marks the start of PDI's weeklong 19th anniversary celebration that will culminate on Friday. ERIK ARAZAS

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After SC ruling, 2 firms get OK to hunt for oil, gas

By Abigail L. Ho

TWO EXPLORATION firms finally got the go-signal to engage in oil and gas drilling following a landmark Supreme Court decision allowing foreign companies to exploit the country's indigenous resources.

Malacañang awarded over the weekend service contracts to Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (Japex) and South Sea Petroleum Holdings Ltd. to conduct oil and gas exploration activities in two separate areas in the country.

Japex will drill for oil and gas off the Tanon Strait in Negros Occidental, while South Sea Petroleum will explore for oil in the Agusan-Davao Basin in Davao province.

The service contracts of the two companies had been pending for some time after the SC ruled in January 2004 that Republic Act No. 7942, or the Philippine Mining Act, was unconstitutional. On Wednesday, the SC reversed the decision.

"We are very pleased that Malacañang has given the go-signal. We can now move ahead with the exploration programs," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said in a statement yesterday.

The two projects will involve the conduct of geophysical surveys and the drilling of wells to determine the viability of the two locations.

Under the first phase of the two projects, Japex will invest $500,000 while South Sea Petroleum will infuse $200,000 for the geophysical survey of the Tanon Strait and Agusan-Davao Basin, respectively.

Upon completion of the surveys, Japex will invest another $3 million for the drilling of the first exploration well. South Sea Petroleum, on the other hand, will sink in an additional $750,000 for a similar drilling.

Both Japex and South Sea Petroleum plan to drill three to four wells each to determine the commercial viability of the petroleum reserves.

Perez said that Malacañang would also likely approve this month the exploration contract with a consortium led by Australian firm BHP Billiton Petroleum covering 8,000 square kilometers in the deepwater part of the Sulu Sea.

Firing of DOTC executive puzzles transport groups

By Clarissa S. Batino

A TOP official of the Department of Transportation and Communication, who implemented various reforms at the DOTC, has been fired by Malacañang, triggering widespread concern among transport groups that pending initiatives that the official had adopted could be stalled.

Transport Undersecretary Arturo Valdez, who had been with the DOTC almost eight years, received his walking papers two weeks ago. A termination memo signed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita dated Nov.10 thanked Valdez for his services.

A certain Ricky Alfonso from the Presidential Management Staff was named as Valdez's replacement.

But representatives of transport groups said they would send a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo today to question the removal of Valdez, the longest-serving among DOTC officials. They claimed that Valdez had helped address most of their concerns.

Valdez himself was puzzled by his sudden removal, saying he had no idea why he was fired. He, however, suspected that politics and vested interests may have had something to do with his ouster. "But I never begged for my position and I have accepted their decision," he said.

Valdez had reportedly refused to sign hundreds of unqualified jeepney and bus franchises that had been endorsed by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

A member of a transport group suspected that Valdez might have blocked moves of other officials to open public franchises even to unqualified groups.

Valdez said he was surprised to receive the memo in late November after attending a transport meeting during the recently held summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Block Burma's leadership of Asean, urges Pimentel

By Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday urged the government to block Burma's (Myanmar) assumption of the chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), a regional grouping to which the Philippines belongs, in 2006.

Pimentel made the call saying he wanted the government, as well as the other members of Asean, to pressure Burma's military junta to free Nobel Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other opposition political leaders from detention, as well as to institute democratic reforms in that country.

Pimentel issued the statement on his return from an Asean parliamentarian conference in Malaysia on Nov. 27-28 that discussed the "unjust restrictions on the freedom of movement of Burma's opposition leaders by the military junta," among other topics.

In a statement, the senator said Burma's military leaders last week extended Suu Kyi's detention for one more year, while some 100 leaders of her party, the National League of Democracy (NLD), remained in prison.

Suu Kyi has been under house arrest since May 2003 following the Burma military's violent dispersal of a motorcade led by NLD members. Previously, the Nobel Prize winner had been placed under house arrest from 1989 to 1995 and again from 2000 to 2002.

"[The extension of Suu Kyi's house arrest was] in blatant disregard of Burma's commitment to respect the human rights of its people and to abide by democratic principles when it was admitted into Asean seven years ago," Pimentel said.

He said he concurred with President Macapagal-Arroyo's move last week asking Burma Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Soe Win in Laos to allow Suu Kyi and the other opposition leaders to participate in the country's political processes.

Pimentel urged the Senate to ask Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo to express the chamber's sentiment that Burma's recent moves "make it unworthy to chair the Asean in 2006."

Libyan truce monitors set to arrive today

By TJ Burgonio

SECESSIONIST rebels in the southern Philippines yesterday welcomed the arrival of another team of international truce monitors, this time from Libya, saying they would play a pivotal role in the resumption of formal peace talks with the government next year.

Contingent head Mohamed Mohamed Suwaisi and member Abubakar Ibrahim Wanis are arriving at 4:30 a.m. today aboard Qatar Airways. They will be followed by two other team members next week.

The pair will fly to Cotabato City on Wednesday to join monitors from Malaysia and Brunei who had earlier been deployed to oversee the ceasefire agreement forged by the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) ahead of the peace talks aimed at ending the long-running insurgency.

"It's a welcome development. It's a manifestation that the peace process is moving, contrary to speculations," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said in an interview. "Besides, Libya has committed to be part of the international monitoring team."

Despite isolated clashes between government troops and the rebels, the ceasefire "has been holding," partly due to the deployment of the monitors in former war zones in Mindanao, Kabalu said.

"Definitely, they're a big help," he added.

Government officials had voiced high hopes the involvement of the monitors in the peace process would bring both parties closer to an agreement to end the 26-year insurgency in the South.

The participation of the monitors in the peace process, along with the removal of government troops from the Buliok complex, a former rebel stronghold, and the dropping of criminal charges against rebel leaders, was a condition for the resumption of the talks in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, next year.

Malaysia had moved the date of the talks several times owing to the conflicts on the ground. Topping the agenda in next year's talks is the issue of ancestral domain. *With Christian V. Esguerra; Troy Malcolm, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Lusat hi '79 reunion

HIGH school Class '79 of the La Union School of Arts and Trade (now the DMMMSU, mid-La Union campus) will hold its silver anniversary reunion on Dec. 30 at Apilado Hall, DMMMSU, in San Fernando City.

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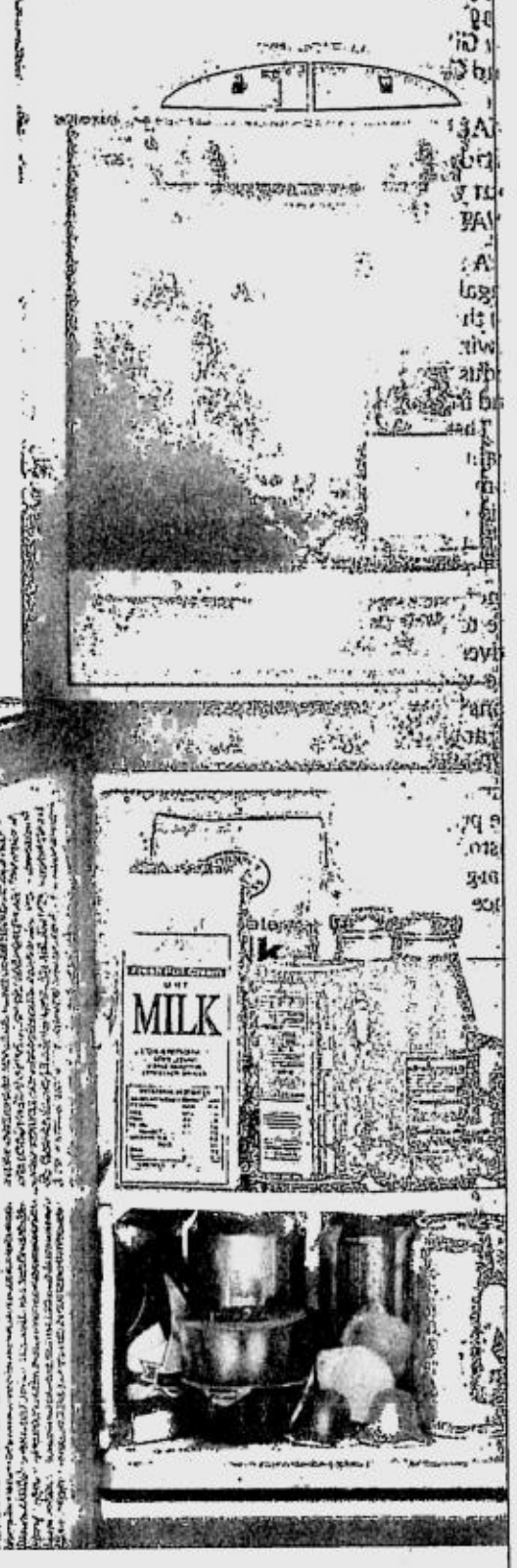

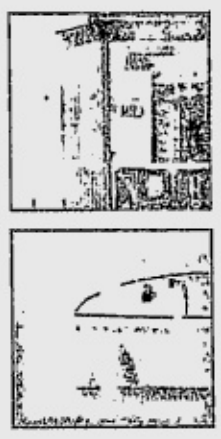

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'He wanted to embrace everybody'

From page A1

portions of the Sierra Madre.

Mountain's wrath

At the time of his death, Father Cha was chancellor of the prelature of Infanta, covering northern Quezon (including Polillo Island) and Aurora. He was also *oeconomus*, or in other words, the bishop's right hand and manager.

On the night of Nov. 29, at around 7 p.m., Father Cha, together with working student Dionisio Cadungod, rushed to Barangay Pilaway in Infanta to urge residents to leave their homes. He took people aboard a vehicle and brought them to safer ground.

Despite rising floodwaters, Father Cha insisted on going back to the site to save more people. He tied a rope around himself and then flung the other end of the rope over the electric wires that led to an electric post. This way, he thought, he could safely reach out to evacuees while being attached to the wires which were high above the waters.

Suddenly, a mighty wall of water carrying mud, rocks and logs came crashing down. The logs toppled the post and smashed everything and everyone in their way.

Father Cha and Dionisio were badly hit and tried to hang on to each other in the swirling waters. Faint and weak, the priest told Dionisio, "Hold on and save yourself; I cannot save you."

God's will

Although battered and muddied, Dionisio survived. He walked back to the convent and broke the bad news.

Hours later, Father Cha was found—still tied to the rope but lifeless. He was among the hundreds who lost their lives in Infanta, Real, Nakar and Dingalan towns and other places that went under.

When his friends in the prelature, Fr. Mario Raphael M. Castillo and Rev. Mario Van Loon, heard what happened, they both expressed sadness: "His death was a great loss to all of us. When any priest was in crisis, Father Cha was there to help."

On Saturday, his body was airlifted from Infanta to Manila by an Air Force Huey helicopter. It lies at the Mount Carmel Shrine in Quezon City, now a hub of relief operations, and will be flown today to Midsayap, Cotabato, where his family resides.

"We have accepted his fate," his brother Frank said. "It's God's will that his life ended that way. It was his way of helping the poor and the needy."

Father Cha would have celebrated his 18th anniversary in the priesthood on Dec. 2 if it were not for the tragedy.

Priesthood or bust

Born in September 1956 in Cagayan de Oro City, he was the third of eight children. His late father Bernardo served in the US Army during World War II and later as a soldier in the Philippine Armed Forces. His mother was a public school teacher.

"He was set on becoming a priest," older sister Bernardita recalled.

Cha attended the Notre Dame Seminary in Cotabato and later the Regional Major Seminary in Davao City. This was the martial law period and activism was strong even in the seminary confines.

His batch spoke out too loudly in defense of a batch ahead of them. To make a long story short, his group was asked to leave. Some were taken back later.

Church of the poor

Infanta beckoned to Cha. He wanted to become a diocesan priest. He went to see Bishop Julio Labayen, head of the new prelature of Infanta. Labayen was an outspoken critic of martial rule and a strong advocate of the "church of the poor."

Cha was admitted to the St. Alphonsus Liguori Seminary in Lucena, Quezon. He was ordained in 1986 in St. Patrick Parish in Dingalan.

Why Dingalan? "We wanted the people, the church of the poor, in far-flung areas to witness this kind of occasion," explained Labayen, who did the honors.

"Oh, I ordained him," the bishop said with both pride and sadness. "He was among those whose hearts were on fire for the poor."

Cha's first three-year assignment was in Burdeos on wind-swept Polillo Island. It was a difficult assignment but he was up to the challenge.

Fr. Edwin Agapay, now head of the formation house in Quezon City for seminarians of the Infanta prelature, stayed with him for some time after the former asked for a transfer from the wealthy Manila archdiocese to the poor prelature.

Guns and spirituality

"Father Cha always had this welcoming attitude," said Agapay. "I never felt I was new. He loved to tell and listen to stories. He never thought of leaving this prelature. He wanted to die in Infanta."

His next assignment was in Casiguran, Aurora, where he was parish priest for 10 years.

In 1999, he enrolled at the University of the Philippines Los Baños for a master's degree in management. After he finished the course in 2001, Bishop Labayen appointed him chancellor and oeconomus.

Unknown to many, Father Cha owned a gun and was a member of a gun club.

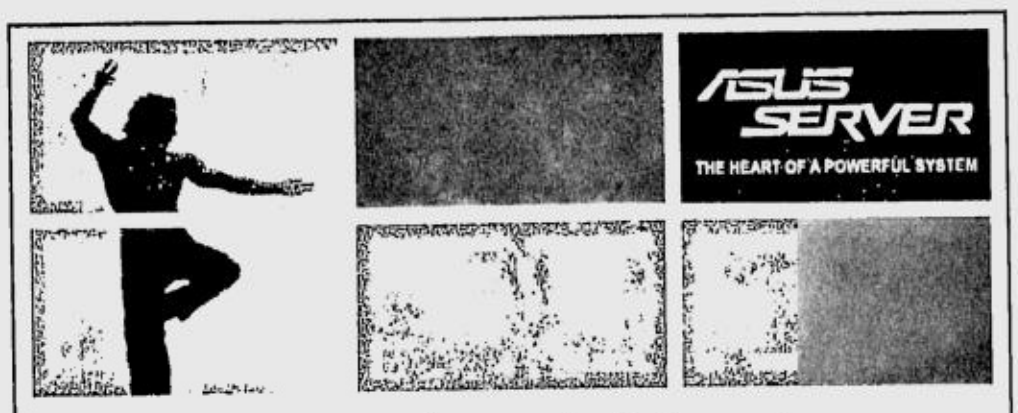
"He loved to shoot," Agapay said. It was also to protect himself, Bishop Tirona revealed.

He was worried about some illegal loggers going after him. Although not an overt environmental activist, the priest knew what was going on.

In his last moments, his true nature and spirituality shone through.

"His last moments spoke of who he really was," said Franciscan Fr. Pete Montallana who saw the priest's muddied body being laid out.

Bishop Tria-Tirona summed it up: "He was a priest who wanted to embrace everybody." *With reports from Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau, and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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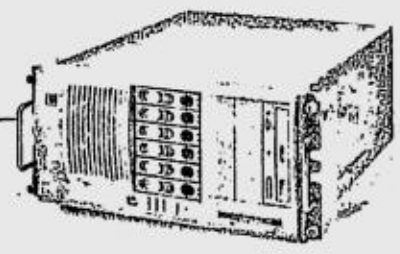

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Baguio artists showcase victims' pain

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Images of anguished faces glowering in rage and of families distraught by the presence of the military have been put on canvass and in song to benefit typhoon and human rights victims.

These are portraits, multimedia installations and albums that Baguio activists and artists hope to sell in an "art-for-food" benefit show launched on Sunday by filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik and by artists belonging to the Dap-ayan ti Kultura iti Kordilyera (DKK).

Mayor Braulio Yaranon inaugurated "Liwliwa para iti Kappia" (Celebration for Peace) at the Victor Oteyza Community Art Space (Vocas) here to celebrate International Human Rights Day on Dec. 10.

He cut through a thick strand of barbed wire, which served as a ceremonial ribbon, to establish a "genuine human rights celebration."

Tahimik also raised a multimedia installation celebrating the centennial of the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, more popularly known as the St. Louis World's Fair, where indigenous Filipinos, including Igorots, were made to perform as living exhibits.

Often criticized as the first documented case of racial abuse by the United States of the inhabitants of its colonies, the St. Louis Fair became the chronological root of Tahimik's documentation of human rights violations against Filipinos that still plague the country.

"Human rights is very apt (for this occasion). It has both aesthetics and political. meaning in our country that need (to be) reawakened," Tahimik said.

But the show was not initially designed to be a benefit exhibit, said Pio Verzola, executive director of the Northern Media Information Network, which produced Liwliwa.

Verzola said militants needed to translate their feelings and philosophies into art pieces because their slogans and marches had turned people off.

Art, he said, helps illustrate issues to people who would otherwise dismiss groups like DKK as "Leftists" or "communists."

Verzola said the recent natural and man-made disasters that hit the country convinced the groups that raising funds for victims, and launching an education campaign, might be a step in the right direction after all.

Myke Sotero, DKK secretary general, said the Baguio-based artists were heartbroken by the tales of striking sugarcane workers in Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac. At least seven people, most of them hacienda workers, were killed in a violent dispersal on Nov. 16.

Their art pieces share this human grief.'

Sotero's "Hacienda Golgotha" and "Obrero" feature screaming heads painted against a golden backdrop of clear skies and a grim scarlet of pain.

Duday Maranan painted a sea of faceless pedestrians rushing by a bearded sharp-eyed man she called "Taong Grasa."

Aside from Tahimik, top Baguio artists like Tommy Hafalla, Kigao Rosimo, Darnay Demetillo, Bobby Acosta and Jordan Mangosan donated pieces to the fund drive.

Proceeds from the show will be coursed through human rights organizations working in the towns and provinces ravaged by the recent typhoons that hit Luzon.

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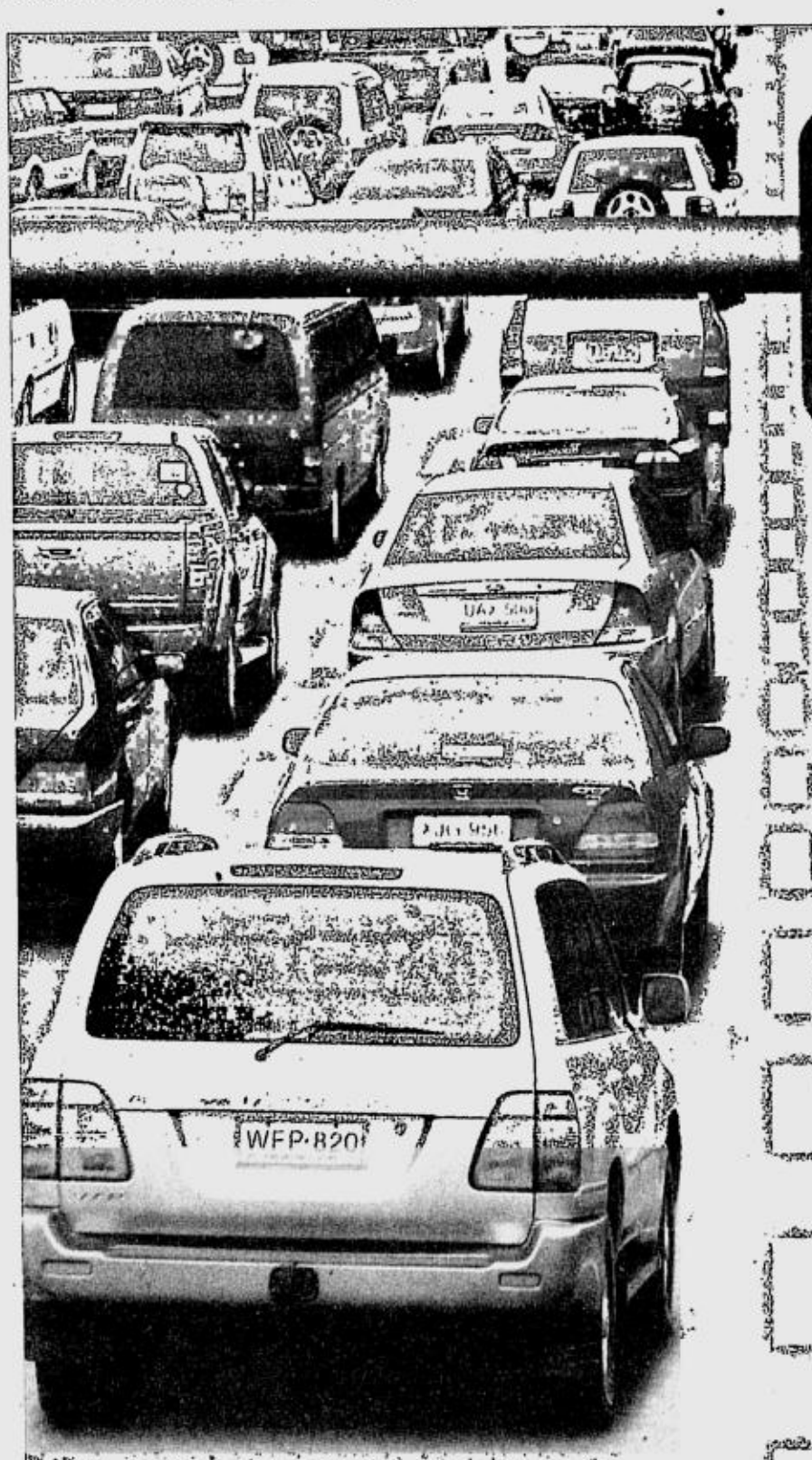

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After calamity, AFP opts for austere fete

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR THE first time in almost seven decades, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) will not hold a pompous anniversary celebration—usually a very expensive affair—preferring to donate the funds to the victims of the typhoons that recently hit the country.

For its 69th anniversary on Dec. 21, the mood will be austere, highlighted by a simple flag-raising ceremony at military general headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, according to AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu.

"This will be the first time the AFP will forgo a formal ceremony," said Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, AFP information officer, in a statement.

The P1.3 million budgeted for the celebration will instead be used to purchase relief goods for the thousands of victims of the four recent typhoons, Pascual said.

The commanders of the military's three major services—the Army, Navy and Air Force—will also each donate P1 million to the National Disaster Coordinating Council's relief operations.

In the past, AFP anniversaries were a showcase of extravagance. There were cocktails, fireworks, a flashy pass-in-review before VIPs on the parade ground, and radio and television ads.

Abu announced the decision to hold an austere celebration following his visit on Saturday to Real and Infanta in Quezon, the two towns hardest hit by landslides and flash floods.

In Barangay Tignoan in Real, residents had to walk at least 2.5 kilometers just to reach Army trucks that would transport them to relief centers.

During Abu's visit, Army engineers were working with the Department of Public Works and Highways to clear the Real-Infanta road in order to expedite the distribution of relief goods.

The Army was also clearing a landslide that had killed hundreds of people in Barangay Tanauan in Real. It was one of more than 20 landslides on the road leading to Infanta, the military said.

St. Peter's reunion

CLASS '94 of St. Peter's College of Ormoc will hold a reunion at Sabin's Beach Resort, Ormoc City, on Dec 26. Class members may contact Nadia Cortes at cell phone no. (0917)328-5347; Coeli Fiel, (0917)328-5347, or Angela Abucay, (0917)306-0009, for details.

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8 armed Ecleo followers nabbed in south

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Eight members of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), the cult headed by Ruben Ecleo Jr., were arrested in Lapulapu City Friday night for possession of high-powered firearms.

Seized were an M-16 rifle, three baby Armalites, several grenades, silencers, assorted ammunition, bonnets, fatigue uniforms and wigs.

Nestor Carrol of Lapulapu City claimed he owned the firearms which he was supposed to "deliver" to communist rebels in Catbalogan, Samar, for P300,000.

Carrol, 34, said it was just a coincidence that all the other passengers in the van with him were PBMA members.

Police alleged the group had a "special mission" in Cebu—to spring PBMA member Michael Favila, the main suspect in the murder of lawyer Arbet Sta. Ana Yongco, from detention.

Yongco was the private prosecutor in the parricide case against Ecleo, the "supreme master" of the PBMA accused of killing his wife, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo.

Supt. Louie Oppus, chief of the Lapulapu police, said there was nothing to indicate that the arrested PBMA members had links to the Yongco murder case.

But Senior Supt. Cecil Ezra Sandalo, head of the Central Visayas Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division, disagreed.

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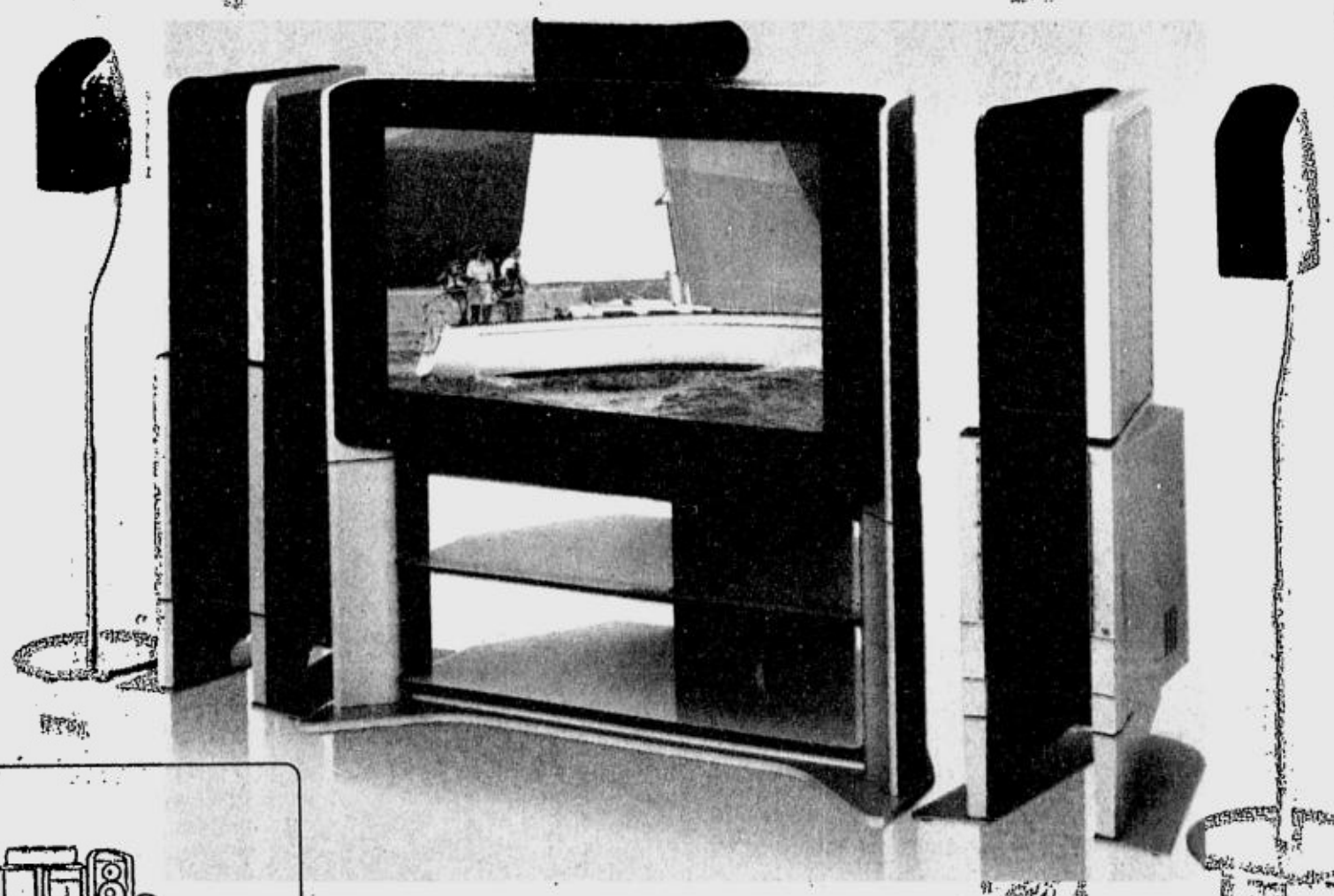
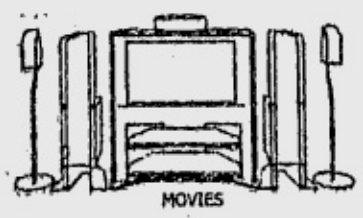
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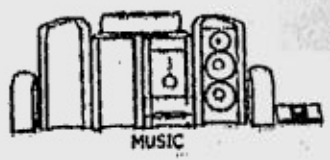
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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Ukraine rivals locked in new standoff

KIEV—Ukraine's pro-West opposition was locked in a fresh standoff with the ruling regime Sunday that cast a shadow over preparations for a rerun of the contested presidential vote later this month.

Armed with a ruling from the supreme court that invalidated the Nov. 21 poll as riddled with fraud, opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko has refused to vote for constitutional changes that would dilute the powers of the presidency, which he might win.

The dispute over the constitutional reforms has also blocked important changes to the electoral law which the opposition say are needed to prevent fraud in the Dec. 26 rerun vote.

Seen as the favorite ahead of the new vote against pro-Russian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, Yushchenko was defiant before a massed crowd of supporters in Kiev's central Independence Square late Saturday.

"We agreed to pass political reforms after the election. The electoral process is not over. Right now we have to talk about the election, the election is the theme of the day," Yushchenko said.

"We're being offered constitutional reform, we are given a document that doesn't have anything to do with the election—is that an honest dialogue?" he added.

Outgoing President Leonid Kuchma on Saturday called European negotiators back to Kiev for a third round of talks to break the new deadlock with the opposition.

Kuchma charged that agreements reached during previous roundtable discussions "are not being carried out by the opposition, which is leading to an increase of tensions in the country," according to a statement from the presidency.

The opposition has so far prevented parliament from adopting constitutional changes that would hand a number of powers from the president to the prime minister and that Kuchma has been trying to push through for more than a year.

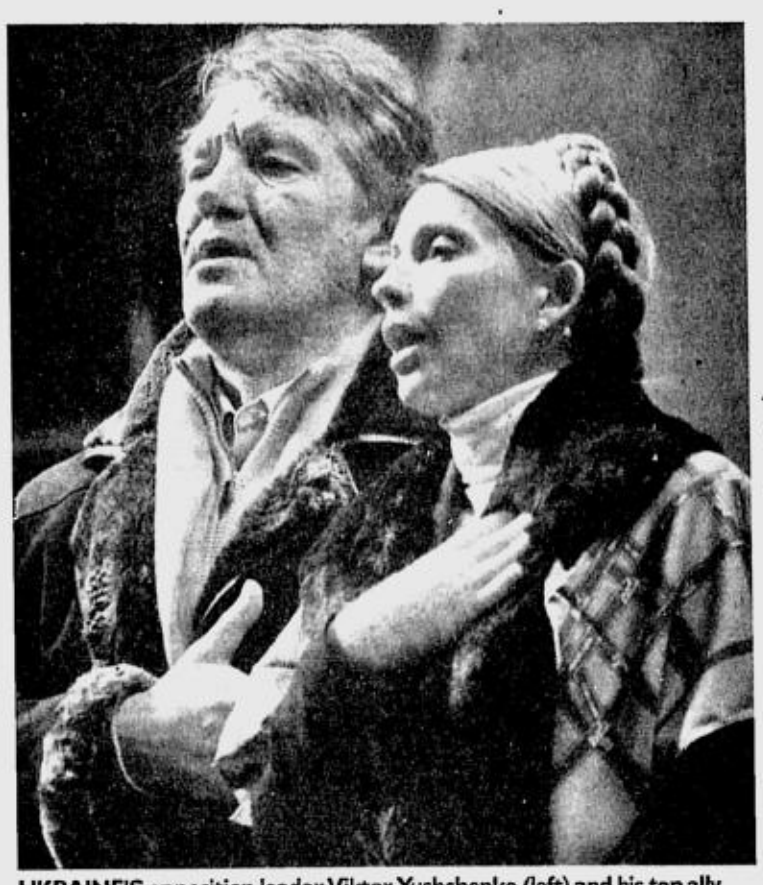
Analysts say Kuchma's aim as he steps down after 10 years of difficult rule in this former Soviet republic is to keep his influence through parliament, where pro-government forces are still strong.

"The new president must be strong. Now is not the time to pass this law, maybe in a year or two when he has put his stamp on the country," said one opposition protestor, 40-year-old Mykola Daniluk.

During previous roundtable talks held at the height of the crisis, Yushchenko had agreed to negotiate the passage of the constitutional amendments along with amendments to the electoral law for a rerun of the invalidated Nov. 21 poll.

A new round of talks to be held on Monday will bring together the same participants as the previous two rounds—including both presidential candidates, Kuchma, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana and Russia's parliament speaker Boris Gryzlov.

The supreme court ruled Friday that results from the earlier election were tainted by fraud and ordered a fresh second round, which the central election commission has since set for Dec. 26. *AFP*



UKRAINE'S opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko (left) and his top ally Yulia Timoshenko sing the national anthem during a rally in Kiev Dec. 4. Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said defiantly he would take on Yushchenko in a new election battle, a day after a court stripped him of his title of president-elect. REUTERS

Musharraf says no clues to Osama's whereabouts

WASHINGTON—The search for al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden has gone cold and there is no indication of his whereabouts, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf told the Washington Post in an interview published on Sunday.

Musharraf said Pakistani forces were still aggressively pursuing Bin Laden but that recent security operations and interrogation had determined only that he was still alive.

"He is alive, but more than that, where he is, no, it'll be just a guess and it won't have much basis," Musharraf was quoted as saying in the interview.

Pressed about whether Bin Laden's trail had gone cold, Musharraf told the Post: "Yes, if you mean we don't know, from that point of view, we don't know where he is."

Musharraf met on Saturday with US President George W. Bush, who praised his ally's efforts in the war on terrorism and the search for Bin Laden, whose al-Qaida militant network carried out the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

One of the most sensitive issues between the two countries is the unsuccessful three-year hunt along the Afghan-Pakistan border for the al-Qaida leader.

"The president has been a determined leader to bring to justice not only people like Osama bin Laden, but to bring to justice those who would inflict harm and pain on his own people," Bush said after their meeting in the Oval Office.

Musharraf told the Post the US-led coalition did not have enough troops in Afghanistan, which had left "voids." He said the United States and its allies needed to speed the training and expansion of the new Afghan army. *Reuters*

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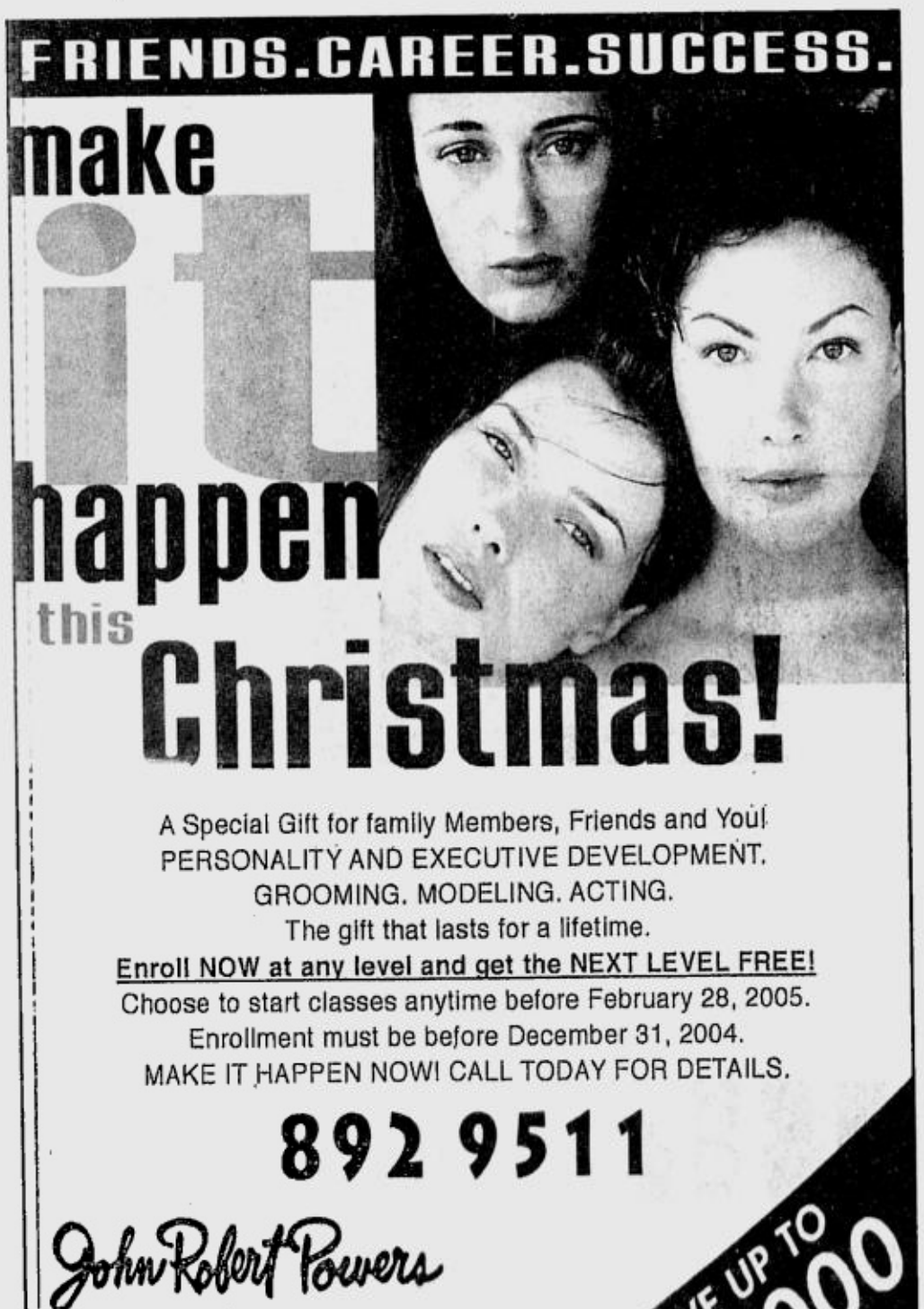

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Wave of attacks leaves over 40 dead in Iraq

MOSUL, Iraq—A wave of attacks including car bombings here and in Baghdad have left over 40 people dead in Iraq, as the UN's top advisor for the country said the current climate of insecurity makes holding landmark elections in January impossible.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's chief in Mosul, Saad Pira, told AFP that 17 Kurdish militiamen were killed and more than 40 wounded when a suicide car bomber rammed their convoy as they were traveling through the Karama neighborhood of Mosul Saturday afternoon.

"An Opel car slammed into the convoy and exploded against the minibuses, two of which were totally gutted by fire," Pira said.

The US military said that two of its soldiers were also killed in Mosul on Saturday when their patrol came under attack, without providing further details.

Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, is rife with ethnic tension between its Kurdish and Arab communities. After Iraqi president Saddam Hussein fell from power in 2003, Kurdish political parties set up offices there, guarded by peshmergas.

Earlier in Baghdad, at least four policemen were killed and 49 others wounded in a double car bombing, medics said, a day after 26 people were killed in twin attacks claimed by militants loyal to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Iraq's most-wanted man.

Another 16 Iraqis were reported killed in a wave of attacks across the country, while two more US soldiers were killed in attacks Saturday.

Two cars were detonated simultaneously in Baghdad, ripping through the Salhiyah police station just outside the main entrance to the heavily fortified "Green Zone," home to embassies and Iraqi government offices, the US military said.

The attacks were the latest in a line of strikes against Iraq's US-backed security forces who have become prime targets for insurgents seeking to destabilize the country ahead of elections set for Jan. 30.

UN Iraq envoy Lakhdar Brahimi told the Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad in an interview published Saturday that the vote could only take place "if first and foremost security improves."

If the poll took place only in secure areas of Iraq it would exclude the Sunni minority, who live in extremely tense areas such as Fallujah and Samarra, Brahimi said. *AFP*

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Colombia drug boss tastes US prison cell

MIAMI—The former boss of Colombia's Cali cocaine cartel was in a US prison cell on Saturday after an extradition that capped a 14-year investigation into his multibillion-dollar drug business.

The most important drug trafficker ever handed over to US justice by Colombia, Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela was flown into an undisclosed airport early on Saturday and taken to a Miami penitentiary, a US law enforcement official said.

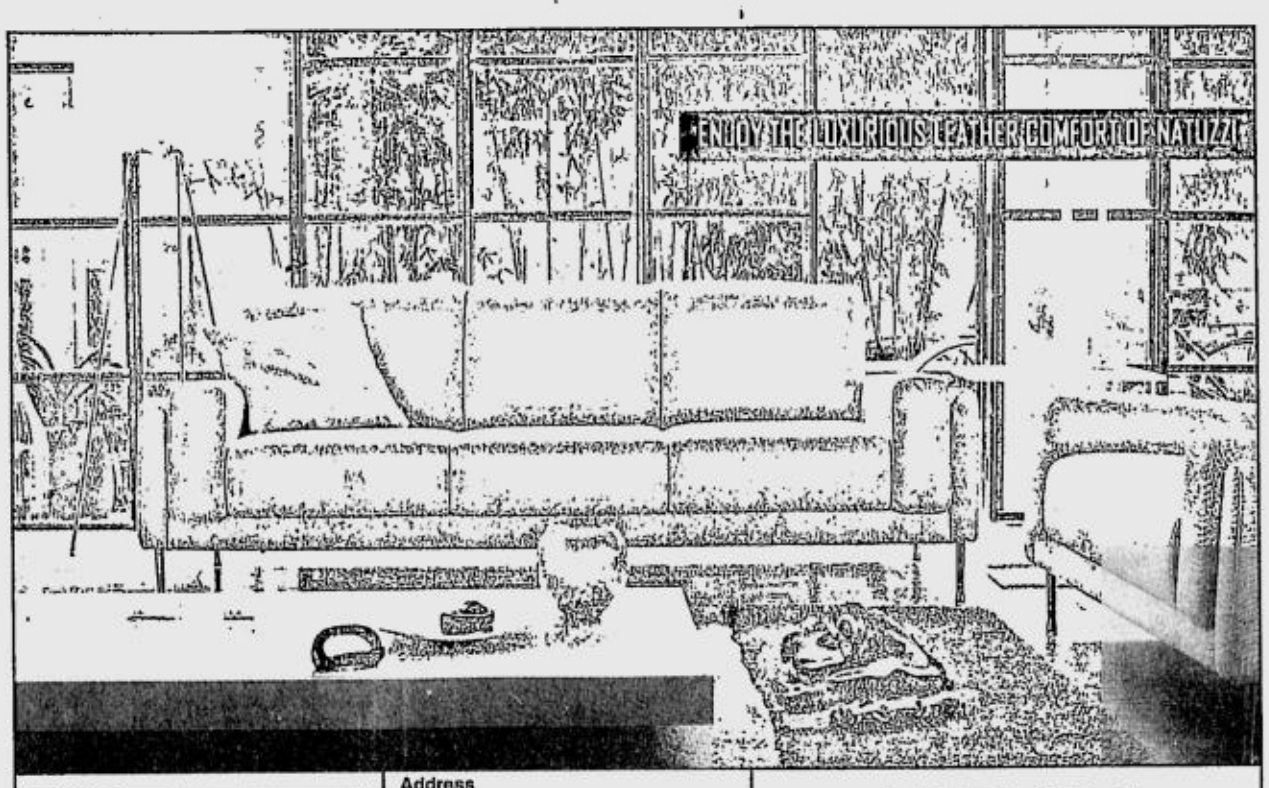
He was being held in a cell until an initial court appearance on Monday, the official said on condition of anonymity. No details were available.

Known in the 1980s and early 1990s as the "Chess Player" for his ability to outwit police, the now gray-haired 65-year-old capo was one of the last of Colombia's legendary outlaws to run the cocaine business from jungle laboratories to overseas distribution.

Colombian authorities say he continued to run his empire from jail after being arrested in 1995 and after a ban on extraditions was lifted two years later.

He and other defendants named in indictments in Miami and New York face charges of conspiracy to import and distribute cocaine and of money laundering. If convicted, he faces life imprisonment on the drug charges and up to 20 years prison time for money laundering.

US justice authorities want the courts to seize $2.1 billion—the amount they say was involved in the money laundering conspiracy run by Rodriguez Orejuela. *Reuters*



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Aborigines may lose some rights, says Howard

CANBERRA—Australia's Aboriginal communities might lose some basic rights under a tough new approach to help lift their living standards.

Prime Minister John Howard said the government needed to support solutions put forward by local communities such as curfews and alcohol bans even if they infringed on universal civil rights.

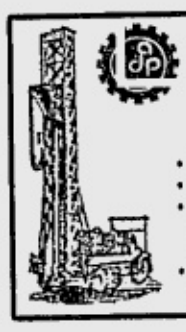
He said staying alive was more important for Aborigines than any 1970s view of civil liberties.

The prime minister has won support from two of Australia's most respected Aboriginal leaders, Pat Dodson and Noel Pearson, for his approach which will end passive welfare payments and which the government says will build self respect within indigenous communities.

"The answer lies in finding solutions at a local level that keep families together, reassert the authority of parents, instill a greater sense of responsibility in parents and Aboriginal leaders," Howard told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The prime minister has had a strained relationship with Aboriginal leaders over his refusal to apologize for past injustices and for his approach to indigenous affairs over more spiritual issues such as traditional land rights.

Tensions between black and white Australians have been at flash point in the past week after rioters burned down a police station and courthouse at the Palm Island Aboriginal community off north Queensland following the death of a local man in police custody. *Reuters*



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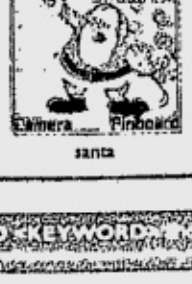

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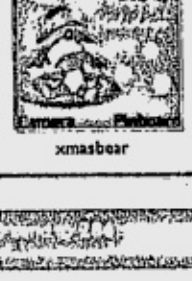

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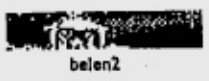
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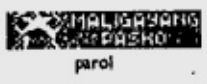

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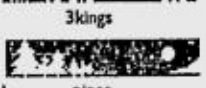
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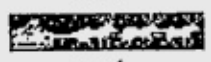
santa6

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Key word: CANDLE <KEYWORD>

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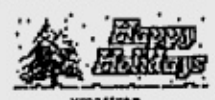

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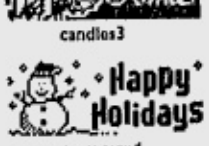

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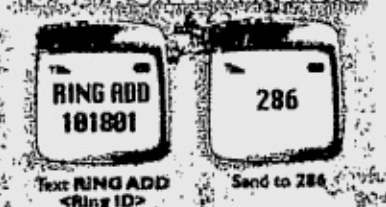

ALL-STAR XMAS

ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
Mariah Carey	All I Want For Christmas Is You	101801
The Chipmunks	Jingle Bells	101803
Celine Dion	O Holy Night	101477
Wham	Last Christmas	101805
Macy Gray	Winter Wonderland	101799
Frank Sinatra	Jingle Bells	101793
Celine Dion	The Christmas Song	101478
Destiny's Child	Silent Night	101792
South Park	O Holy Night	101802
Charlotte Church	The First Noel	101790
The 3 Tenors	Joy To The World	101787
Frank Sinatra	White Christmas	101796

ALL-STAR OPM XMAS

ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
Artstrong*	I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus	101976
Christian Bautista*	Silent Night	101977
Dice & K9*	Last Christmas	101978
Kitchie Nadal*	Merry Christmas Darling	101979
Nina*	The Christmas Song	101980
Paolo Santos*	The Man Who Would Be Santa	101981
Pido*	On Christmas Morning	101982
Thor*	This Christmas	101983
Jose Mari Chan	A Perfect Christmas	102024
Jose Mari Chan	A Wish On Christmas Night	102025
Jose Mari Chan	Christmas In Our Hearts	102027
Masculados	Lagot Ka (Feliz Navidad)	102031
Masculados	Macho Na Si Santa	102033
Parokya Ni Edgar	Happy New Year	102038
Parokya Ni Edgar	Hosana Ngayong Pasko	102039
Parokya Ni Edgar	Maybe Someday	102041
Parokya Ni Edgar	Namamasko Po	102043
Parokya Ni Edgar	Parol Ni Edgar	102044
Parokya Ni Edgar	Tamad Si Santa Claus	102047
Christian Bautista	Hark The Herald Angels Sing	101742
Christian Bautista	O Holy Night	101745
Christian Bautista	Joy To The World	101743
Christian Bautista	Silent Night	101744

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ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
South Border	Hark The Herald Angels Sing	101778
Side A	We Wish You A Merry Christmas	101810
Mojofly	Little Drummer Boy	101747
Barbie's Cradle	Silent Night	101808
South Border	Little Drummer Boy	101779
Bridge	O Holy Night 1	101840
Side A	God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	101809
Mojofly	Angels We Have Heard On High	101746
South Border	Little Drummer Boy 2	101780
Barbie's Cradle	O Come All Ye Faithful	101807
Barbie's Cradle	Deck The Halls	101806
Bridge	Joy To The World	101839

ANGELIC SOUNDS

ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
Ateneo College Glee Club	Angels We Have Heard On High (Boombox Version)	101732
Ateneo College Glee Club	Silent Night	101737
Ateneo College Glee Club	Away In A Manger	101731
Ateneo College Glee Club	Joy To The World	101735
Ateneo Chamber Singers	Hark The Herald Angels Sing	101724
Ateneo Chamber Singers	Angels We Have Heard On High	101721
Ateneo Chamber Singers	We Wish You A Merry Christmas	101729
Ateneo Chamber Singers	God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen	101723
UP Singing Ambassadors	Angels We Have Heard On High	101740
UP Singing Ambassadors	Adeste Fideles	101741

HO HO HO

ARTIST	TITLE	RING ID
Spit	Akyat Bahay	101759
Spit	Cash Money Or Item	101760
Spit	Christmas Jokes 1	101761
Porkchop Duo	Aksidente	101768
Porkchop Duo	Caroling	101769
Porkchop Duo	Sasabitan	101776
Giselle Sanchez	Bisaya Christmas	101811
Giselle Sanchez	Bluetooth	101812
Giselle Sanchez	Hindi Totoo	101814
JM Rodriguez	3 Itlog	101817
JM Rodriguez	Ghost Of Xmas Past (Ilonggo)	101819
JM Rodriguez	Utot Fireworks	101826
Tim Tayag	Perfect Gift 1	101830
Tim Tayag	Simbang Gabi	101834
Tim Tayag	Elf	101828

LOONEY TUNES

LOONEY TOON	TITLE	RING ID
Bugs Bunny	All I Want For Christmas	102054
Bugs Bunny And Sylvester	All I Want For Christmas	102055
Looney Tunes	Deck The Halls	102056
Looney Tunes	Santa Claus Is Coming To Town	102057
Looney Tunes	Spirit Of Christmas	102058
Porky Pig	Here Comes Santa Claus	102059
Sylvester Jr.	Jolly Old St. Nick	102060
Taz	Deck The Halls	102061
Taz	Jingle Bells	102062
Tweety	Jingle Bells	102063
Yosemite Sam	I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus	102064

X'MAS SFX

TITLE	RING ID
Happy New Year 2005 Mix	101782
Chimes Elf Mix	101781
Sleigh Bells 2 Jingle Mix	101784
Sleigh Bells Santa Mix	101783
Santa Claus	102015

RINGTONES

Polyphonic MIDI MONO & POLY KEYWORD

TITLE	KEYWORD
Twelve Days Of Christmas	12DAYS
Jingle Bells	JINGLE
Deck The Halls	DECK
We Wish You A Merry Christmas	MERRY
Angels We Have Heard On High	ANGELS

MESSAGE ALERTS*

LOONEY TUNES

TITLE	LOONEY TOON	KEYWORD
All I Want For Christmas	Bugs Bunny	ALLIWANT1
All I Want For Christmas	Looney Tunes	ALLIWANT2
Christmas Greeting	Looney Tunes	MERYXMAS
Deck The Halls	Looney Tunes	DECK1
Deck The Halls	Taz	DECK2
Here Comes Santa Claus	Porky Pig	PORKYSANTA
I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus	Yosemite Sam	SANTAKISS
Jingle Bells	Taz	JINGLE1
Jingle Bells	Tweety	JINGLE2
Jolly Old St. Nicholas	Sylvester	STNIC
Santa Claus Is Coming To Town	Looney Tunes	SANTA1
Santa Claus Is Coming To Town	Pepe Le Pew	SANTA2
Spirit Of Christmas	Looney Tunes	SPIRIT

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OTHER CHRISTMAS MESSAGE ALERTS

TITLE	KEYWORD	TITLE	KEYWORD
Angels We Have Heard On High	ANGELS	Twelve Days Of Christmas	12DAYS
Dingdong Merrily On High	DING	We Wish You A Merry Christmas	MERRY
O Come All Ye Faithful	FAITHFUL	Chimes	CHIMES
O Little Town Of Bethlehem	LILTOWN	Happy New Year	NEWYR
O Christmas Tree	XMASTREE	Santa Claus	HOHOHO

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•Chino Roces Ave corner Yagun and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4607
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0106 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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TO BE certain, Senate President Franklin Drilon's appeal to his fellow legislators to give up part of their pork barrel funds in favor of the many flood and landslide victims seemed not a little gimmicky—as though he were in part playing to the gallery.

But there is so much wrong with House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles' terse reply to Drilon's challenge that we can overlook the senator's grandstand play.

EDITORIAL

What, exactly, did the gentleman from Davao City say?

"We have already given up our pork. Did anyone give up their pork when we were bombed in Davao and for the war in Mindanao? So many people died there, too, right?" Nograles said last Friday, in a text message he sent the INQUIRER.

Strictly speaking, congressmen have not given up their pork—only a portion of it, and if continuing delay forces the reenactment of the present budget, not even that. But Nograles' imprecision is telling, because it reveals the sense of entitlement that underlies our lawmakers' attitude to the pork barrel.

To mistake sacrificing a portion for the entire sum is to emphasize, not what is given up, but the one doing the giving up. It's as if Nograles—and on this matter he is truly the majority leader, because he speaks for most congressmen—begrudged the reduction in funds so much that he thinks he has practically lost the entire pork barrel. He is rather like a salaried employee who, after withholding taxes are deducted from his pay, melodramatically complains that the government has taken everything!

The employee has grounds for feeling that way; he must believe, after all, that he is entitled to all the fruits of his labor. But Nograles and other congressmen? Why would they feel that way about giving up part of the pork barrel, if they did not feel similarly entitled to ALL of it?

Nograles also seeks to draw a parallel between the recent tragedies and the wave of terror that swept certain parts of Mindanao. Did anyone give up their pork then, he asks? But back then there was no fiscal crisis, no national soul-searching over the use and abuse of the pork barrel. Back then, giving up the pork barrel wasn't even being discussed.

But we are in the middle of one such crisis now. Contrary to President Macapagal-Arroyo's startling announcement last month, the country is still very much on the road to default. According to the economists from the University of the Philippines, that terrible milestone may be only two or three years away. And for all the hue and cry that followed the President's admission last August that a budget crisis did in fact exist, none of the eight revenue measures needed has yet been passed. There is some movement, yes; but just because things are in motion does not mean, as the President took it to mean last month, that the crisis is in fact over.

Nograles' reply also assumes the basic fallacy that legislators now take for granted: that they bear part of the executive branch's responsibility for their respective districts. This attitude is transparent in Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo's reply to Drilon.

"May I stress that senators do not have direct constituencies, unlike congressmen who are answerable to their districts," the President's eldest son said. The young Arroyo was not propounding a novel theory of the separation of powers; that is beyond his ken. He was simply repeating the rationalization congressmen use to justify their greater need for the pork barrel; that is, that they have a direct constituency, that they are answerable to their districts.

Nonsense. In our system of government, all elected officials have a direct constituency; just because a senator is elected at large does not make his constituency any less direct. And, contrary to the young Arroyo's view, all government officials—not just congressmen—are answerable to the public.

The problem is, Nograles, Arroyo and most other congressmen define being answerable in another way. We do not mean to be facetious, but if the pork barrel is truly the answer, what in heaven's name is the question?

Nobody listened

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT the people of Rodriguez (Montalban) feared and warned about has become a reality. For more than six years, they have repeatedly been warning of flash floods and landslides because of rampant quarrying in their municipality and in the neighboring town of San Mateo. But nobody listened to them. Now they have been proven correct. But at what cost? A number of people died, hundreds of homes were destroyed, swamped by the floods brought by the storms.

While the floods and landslides in Aurora, Quezon, and Nueva Ecija were caused by illegal logging, those in Rodriguez and Marikina were caused by quarrying.

The people of Rodriguez, led by Dr. Pastor Cruz, have been urging for years to stop the quarrying. They were guests a few times at the Kapihan sa Manila where they repeated their urgent calls. But national and local officials, from the President down, didn't listen.

In the Aug. 16, 1998 issue of the INQUIRER, this column commented that while President Estrada sent Environment Secretary Antonio Cerilles to far-off Siquijor in the Visayas to investigate complaints of quarrying there, his administration was not doing anything to stop the quarrying in Rodriguez and San Mateo, both of which are only an hour's drive from the central office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Metro Manila.

I wrote then: "Experts have reported that the quarrying of gravel from the foot of the mountains has triggered soil erosion and that during heavy rains, the communities below them would be swamped with mud and water.

"A report by the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) said: 'When the rainy season comes, massive siltation of rivers and other tributaries are expected. Worst, these ensuing phenomena are expected to create a damming effect on the upstream areas which will eventually lead to flash floods that will devastate lives and properties in the low-lying areas.' The report specifically pointed to residents of Montalban, Marikina and Pasig as potential casualties.

"The residents of Montalban have complained against the quarrying for years to many government officials and agencies, but it is as if they (the officials) are deaf and blind. According to documents I got, they sought the attention of then President Corazon C. Aquino during her incumbency. 'They have gone through the proper channels, that is: from the office of Gov. Yto Ynares. They have sought the intercession of Sen. Orlando Mercado in his capacity as chair of the Senate committee on environment. They have touched base with practically all of those who served as environment secretary, all the way to the incumbent.'...

"All for naught; no definitive action has been taken."

President Macapagal-Arroyo, reacting to the recent tragedy that left hundreds of people dead and millions of pesos worth of crops and properties lost, has now suspended all logging operations in the country. What about quarrying? It is doing as much harm to the environment as logging.

This is what happens because of quarrying: Rocks and whole hillsides are blasted and ground into gravel which are sold for use in construction projects in Metro Manila. During the blasting, soil, stones and rocks are loosened. The rock-crushing sends soil and dust into the streams and rivers. The ensuing siltation makes these waterways shallower and narrower, reducing their holding capacity for water. Thus, during heavy rains, they overflow and inundate the surrounding areas. Worse, siltation has a "damming" effect on the water. When that "dam" breaks, a wall of water rushes down and swamps the communities below. That was what happened during the storms.

When will our officials open their eyes? Are they waiting for another Ormoc-type tragedy—where thousands perished—to happen?

Ironically, the local officials of the towns of Rodriguez and San Mateo, and of Rizal province, as well as of the DENR and Malacañang, are not sympathetic to the pleas of Dr. Cruz and his group. The LGUs collect fees from the quarry operators. Even their neighbors do not appreciate what Dr. Cruz's group is espousing. Many of them work for the quarry operators. Now, perhaps, they will finally listen.

* * *

In a sense, the people of Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija—who were the worst hit by the landslides and floods—were in the same boat as the residents of Rodriguez and San Mateo. In interviews with media people who managed to reach their stricken barangays, many residents there admitted that they worked for the illegal loggers. Several even admitted they did their own cutting, justifying their actions as "the only way they can feed their families." So it is, as if they are being punished by nature for their sins.

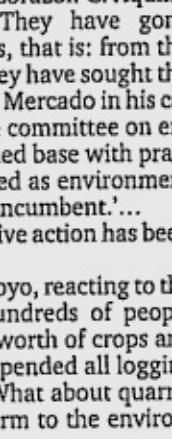
Indeed, the photographs and video footage of millions of cut logs littering the beaches, rivers and plains of the three provinces, with the bald Sierra Madre Mountains in the background, prove that the people went on a massive tree-cutting spree. As if an "open season" had been declared against any standing tree there.

Even young tree seedlings, no stouter than a man's arm, are cut; and their roots, which hold the soil and water together, are dug up. They are sold to landscape architects and garden suppliers in Metro Manila. Television showed stacks of them beside the damaged houses.

The TV footage also showed children putting charcoal into sacks. For charcoal-making—which is even more harmful to the forests—is a common occupation in the hilly areas to supply the needs of sidewalk barbecue vendors, lechon-manok-liempo stands, and *ihaw-ihaw* restaurants in urban areas.

Death

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

LAST Wednesday, we woke up violently to the news that the parish priest of Infanta had drowned in the floods. The parish priest of Infanta is my brother-in-law, my wife's brother, Francisco, whom everyone calls Father Boy. The last time we were in Infanta was in April when he was installed as that town's parish priest. It was a summer's day, the sun fretted and gave the beach—where we repaired to afterwards—a shimmering glow. The sense of warmth was enlivened in no small way by folk taking liberal swigs of fiery *lambanog* in the makeshift huts underneath the coconut trees.

The news about Father Boy was wrong, but the real news was no less tragic. A priest did die in the flood. He was Fr. Charlito Colendres, the chancellor of the Prelature of Infanta for the last two years. Father Cha's heroism was recounted and extolled in the INQUIRER last week. He had tied one end of a rope to a tree and had thrown the other end to people caught in a flash flood when he himself was swept away by the rampaging water. The survivors would later remark that Father Cha died on the very day we celebrate National Heroes Day. But it was no great comfort to his folks, who waited at Mt. Carmel for days for his body to be airlifted to Manila. No chopper could land in Infanta at that time. The place teemed with knee-high mud and debris.

I know how a mudslide in Real looks like. We were there once in the early 1980s, and a storm had swirled there. When it cleared next day, a group of us headed home by bus. At the time, a trip to and from Real took anywhere from nine to 15 hours, depending on the weather and the state of the bus, which was invariably decrepit. The road after Siniloan going to Real was rough and narrow, winding around the mountains. An hour after we left Real, we found our way blocked by a landslide. The rains had loosened a part of the cliff beside the road. Rocks and branches lay half buried in the mud. Nothing could pass through, certainly not a bus.

The bus could do nothing but turn back, the driver telling those who wished to go ahead there was only one way they could do so. That was to walk several kilometers up to a clearing in the mountain where another bus waited. We did. My daughter Miranda was still a kid then and I carried her up on my shoulders while we trudged on slippery mud for what seemed like eternity. When the rain fell in a torrent, we took shelter among the huts that dotted the road intermittently. You could see the mud and rock and branches being washed down the road into the ravines. When we finally got to the clearing, I felt like I had gone through war.

I remembered that ordeal when I saw the footage on TV about what had happened to Real, Infanta and Dingalan. And multiplied it a thousand times. What we went through was nothing compared to this. This was tragedy of indescribable proportions. For days on end, I would hear keening on TV, from those who had lost home, hearth and loved ones. Bodies were strewn everywhere, most of them children. One news crew fished out Christmas lights from the thick mud in Dingalan, driving home the full extent of the tragedy. Christmas is a season expressly reserved for children—indeed when all of Christendom sees the world through the eyes of a child again. The bodies of the children were mangled and torn, like plastic dolls. They had been pummeled by rock, earth and rolling logs. The logs lay everywhere too, incontrovertible evidence of a heinous crime.

My daughter, Miranda, who reported on Polilio, was awed by the devastation. Bodies had washed up to shore in that island, probably coming all the way from Real, delivered there by the tides. There were precious few animals left in Polilio, which lay off Quezon, right on the Pacific Ocean. Left outside beyond the pale of shelter, the carabaos, goats and pigs had perished in the lash of wind and rain.

I felt a personal sense of loss. I had known these places for some time, I had been going there since the 1970s and seen them grow, or deteriorate, over the years. The storm drove home again how utterly vulnerable that part of the world is to natural and human calamities. Lying at the eastern seaboard of this archipelago, it is the fist line of defense against the not very pacific upheavals of the Pacific. Lying in the throes of poverty, moreover, it has very little defense against these ravages. The completion of the highway going there has not lessened the misery, it has increased it through more frenzied logging. That is the human calamity that afflicts Dingalan, Infanta and Real today. The tragedy that visited those places last week wasn't wrought by the hand of God, it was wrought by the hand of greed.

But I will put off my anger for tomorrow. Today, I mean only to grieve for the people of Quezon and be one with them. How can a season of life so swiftly turn into a season of death? I mean only to extol the heroism of Father Cha and all the religious and lay workers who have tied themselves to a tree and thrown the other end of a rope to people drowning in the rampaging water. It is a testament to their fortitude and the mercy of the God they serve that none of them has been swept away, other than in the physical sense of it. That is all my source of hope in this season of death, that death shall have no dominion, as Dylan Thomas puts it.

By his own death, Father Cha has done just that. He has given us hope life will shoot out through the rubble.

* * *

I've gotten a lot of text messages from people who want to contribute goods and services but do not quite know whom to give them to. One very good place is Mt. Carmel Shrine on Broadway, New Manila. Their Tel. No. is 7245938, local 114. Or you can call or text Sister Zenia, 0919-6366127. I'm helping there, too.

Corpus will need GMA's full support

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. Edgardo Angara disputes allegations by two priests from Aurora and Quezon and the New People's Army that his family has profited from illegal logging activities in the province of Aurora; this includes campaign funds from the illegal loggers there. The allegations may not gain credence. I for one don't believe them.

But definitely, the Angaras cannot escape sharing blame for the devastation that has struck Aurora—for the simple reason that nothing happens there without their knowing it. They have total control of the province: aside from the senator, his sister, former three-term Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo, is now governor, replaced in the House by Senator Angara's son, Juan Edgardo Angara; their younger brother is mayor of the capital town of Baler. At the very least, the Angaras seemed not to have exerted enough effort to help curb the rampant logging in Aurora, especially in San Luis and Dingalan, one of the worst hit along the Pacific coast.

* * *

For instance, it's well known in the area that a logging firm operating in Aurora and Quezon, run by a Sigma Rho fraternity brod of Angara, has as its financier a Chinese businessman known out there as one of the members of the "Hong Kong Group." This Chinese is also known for buying illegal logs from the Baluga natives and the townspeople. His firm has been the subject of complaints from another company, for encroaching into areas outside its concession. In fact, the DENR regional executive director, Primitivo C. Galinato Jr., in a Sept. 29, 2003 memo to former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun, recommended a stop to the firm's operations, the relief of its active personnel and the confiscation of its log stockpile in Dingalan. Had the authorities clamped down on that firm and others there, the damage wrought by "Winnie" and "Yoyong" might have been minimized.

* * *

Recent intelligence reports indicate that in the last two years, sawmills have sprouted right along the banks of the Umiray River at the boundary of Aurora and Quezon provinces and Agos River and in the surrounding areas 4 or 5 kilometers inland. Former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, aided by military forces aboard a helicopter, closed down the first sawmill there just before he was fired by the President in December 2002; he also confiscated the chainsaws used by the natives to cut down logs. Twelve days after new Secretary Michael Defensor took over the DENR from Gozun (Alvarez's successor, in GMA's second term), he was said to have found four sawmills in the area. Reports say there are about 400 chain saws in the devastated areas. (These are very deadly, for each one, in the hands of just one or two people, can cut so many century-old trees in a matter of minutes.)

* * *

Warnings about the impending disaster in Aurora and northern Quezon came from various quarters, but it seems they went largely unheeded. On April 27, 2004, 10 barangay captains from the municipality of General Nakar, one of the worst hit areas in Quezon, wrote a letter to Gozun warning about how trees are rampantly being cut. Said the Nakar barangay chiefs: *"Patuloy ang walang patumanggang pagputol ng kahoy na ang ibig sabihin namin ay walang pinipiling sukat o edad ng mga iba't-ibang uri ng kahoy, kahit saan lugar, mapa-watershed man ito o sa tabi ng mga talusan, mga sapa at mga ilog ng aming bayan, na siyang karaniwang nangyayari."*

But this complaint appears to have fallen on deaf ears. For suddenly, in the rampaging typhoons, tens of thousands of illegal logs were washed from the muddy slopes of the mountains down the rivers like scud missiles, destroying lives, property and infrastructure, including bridges.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus as the anti-illegal logging czar and reforestation chief. Corpus is a very good appointment, for early on in his colorful military career, he had demonstrated his concern for the environment. After he returned to the government fold, he undertook on his own a reforestation project in Jamindan, Capiz.

Moreover, *malakas ang loob ni* Corpus. He has battled the big drug lords. Which is good; the task of anti-illegal logging czar will bring him into collision course with politicians big and small, and military and police officials who may be in cahoots with illegal loggers. But as former Environment Secretary Alvarez has said in a press statement, there are enough laws to curb illegal logging. As he stressed, "what happened in Aurora and Quezon was "not a failure of policy, but a failure to enforce the rules."

* * *

Indeed, Corpus will have enough laws to back him up. What he will need to be effective against illegal logging is unequivocal and categorical support from the President. Sadly, however, GMA's record in standing up to political pressure has not been encouraging. Recall that the nationwide perception was that she sacked Alvarez from the DENR after he went against big vested interests in fishing, mining and logging, among them the Pichays, Bernardinos, Alcantaras and Sandovals. GMA replaced him with an unknown named Elisea Gozun, who was recommended by some segments of civil society and Palace advisers with their own agenda. But Gozun was soon perceived as incapable of standing up to the loggers and their politician-backers. The proliferation of sawmills right on the banks of the Umiray River is perhaps proof of this.

Let's hope, for the sake of the country, that in her second wind, GMA means what she says, that she will wage war on illegal loggers and back Corpus all the way.

Food and peace

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

OUT of respect for and in empathy with the thousands of hapless victims of the series of weather disturbances in the past two weeks, I am limiting my comment on the badly scripted "briefing" staged by the administration (on what it has supposedly done to help the homeless and the hungry victims), probably in the hope it would somehow cover up the fact that the government is so bankrupt it could not even adequately respond to the calamity.

Except to say that the production gave me the creeps. The concept, format and the contrived phone-ins gave one an eerie sense of déjà vu. With an obviously disoriented, distracted and disinterested Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo presiding, it looked and sounded so much like Ferdinand Marcos' last briefing before the fall of his regime.

Thank heaven, while Ms Arroyo's hordes of secretaries, assistants and advisers were planning the lighting and positioning of the mikes for the media show, Mel Tiangco of GMA 7's Kapuso Foundation and the volunteers of the ABS-CBN Foundation were already packing relief goods; and the INQUIRER, ABC 5's Tulong Bayan, and other private organizations were collecting contributions from concerned countrymen—here and abroad—who had enough confidence in these media outfits to give whatever they could.

But there is stark reality here staring us in the face. Reality of the kind that dictates basic survival, no less.

What if, God forbid, natural calamities of such force and widespread destruction hit Mindanao, rendering futile our puny attempts at damage control? Crops destroyed, farmlands rendered useless by constant inundation?

It is no coincidence that the majority of the victims of typhoons, earthquakes and floods are food producers—the tillers of the soil and the fisherfolk. They suffer most in the aftermath of disaster: famine, disease, homelessness.

It does not help that as I am writing this, a reader sends a text message: "Did u know that GMA has an all female economic team? Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Rep. Joey Salceda, Neda Director Romy Neri, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, and Presidential Adviser Tommy Alcantara. Go figure why we have a weak economy."

"Male chauvinist pig!" I texted back.

But seriously, in the face of an inept, corruption-ridden national government that has lost the confidence of its constituency, a respected columnist disclosed that certain leaders of society are mulling over specific options to save the Filipino nation from perdition. They are thinking about the possibility of new elections, the formation by consensus of a transition government, and the drafting of a new Constitution.

Desperate situations call for desperate measures.

In the meantime, we should now fix our lenses and view Mindanao not just as the land of unfulfilled promise, or an excuse to invite foreign funding with impressive development plans; but as the land that may ultimately hold the hope for our survival.

This is not going to be achieved by reducing the internal revenue allotment of local governments, thus making the LGUs pay the price of the administration's wasteful spending. While the LGUs in Metro Manila bear with IRA reductions, it would almost be murder to impose IRA reductions on Mindanao's LGUs, especially those in the ARMM provinces, which are among the country's poorest.

For whatever their shortcomings and failures, the LGUs in Mindanao and Sulu remain the key to the ultimate solution of the region's greatest problem: peace and order.

In Sulu at least, local government officials, the religious community and the military are united in the quest for peace.

Last Dec. 16, just four days after the brutal killing of photojournalist Gene Boyd Lumawag, one in a series of unsolved murders last month, Mayor Hadji Suod Tan led town officials and a cross-section of residents in re-launching the town of Jolo as a zone of peace.

This was done in partnership with the Philippine-Canadian Local Government Support Group (ARMM), the Center for Peace and Development of Western Mindanao State University, and the Reach Out to Others Foundation Inc. Lending invaluable support to the pursuit of peace are the civil society groups. Foremost among them is the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation, under Fr. Romeo Villanueva, OMI, which was established by the Oblates to uplift the marginalized in Sulu. This is just in addition to the earlier programs, some of which have been existing for decades.

The provincial government, under the vibrant leadership of newly elected Gov. Benjamin Loong, is actively engaged in pursuing his vision of progress for the province, mainly through agricultural development and marine industries.

A showcase of Governor Loong's success in this effort is his BJ Coco Oil Mill in Indanan which, by the way, has been proposed as a Special Economic Zone. Sulu's chief executive has also purchased 15 farm tractors from Iran to be loaned out to the province's different municipalities.

Last October, Sulu hosted the 3rd ARMM Business Congress in coordination with the ARMM Business Council, the Sulu and Tawi-Tawi chapters of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) of the USAID, the ARMM Department of Trade and Industry, the Regional Board of Investments and, of course, the Office of the Regional Governor.

Aside from the USAID, other foreign agencies like the Asia Foundation and JICA are helping Sulu get back on its feet after decades of destruction and neglect.

The local government and the people are doing their part. The least the national government can do is to increase its IRA, tenfold if possible.

* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

Misery loves company

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

WAS there any significance to Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman's announcing the President's imposition of a total log ban? On the surface, it seemed happenstance. After all, in times of emergency and disaster, the front-line Cabinet officers are the heads of the social welfare and defense departments. But it is significant that the Cabinet official foremost in the line of fire has been conspicuous in his silence.

In other countries, in the wake of the disasters—such as that which have befallen Quezon and Aurora and other provinces—anyone holding the equivalent of our Environment and Natural Resources portfolio would have instantly resigned.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor will not resign—not just because the New People's Army is involved in illegal logging, which deprives it and its allied organizations of any moral authority to criticize the government when it comes to logging. Despite lacking the environmental credentials, Defensor is safe because his usefulness in his department is not just political (to pave the way for a Senate bid), but also economic: he is the point man in the big push of the government to revive the moribund mining industry. His role is to lessen the environmental impact of new mining operations, while ensuring that the industry becomes increasingly attractive to investors, and thus, profitable. This is not a cynical reading of Defensor's role in government. It is a realistic one. Only the environment secretary can play the role at present.

It would make sense to divide his department into two—one for the environment; and a separate one for natural resources. But it would run contrary to the gamble taken by the government with respect to the exploitation of our mineral resources. It may be argued that the DENR is in a better position to minimize the environmental impact of a new mining boom, which anyway can be undertaken in ways different from the wantonly destructive strip-mining methods of the past.

With a country so poor and with increasingly limited options, there is actually the question of whether or not a pact with the devil, so to speak, has to be made. That pact involves looting our mineral resources today to ensure prosperity in the morrow. It is, in fact, a strategy undertaken by the industrialized nations of the West, to great effect. The problem is that the watchdog assigned to ensure this gamble pays off is itself guilty of the kind of wanton looting of the land, which has resulted in repeated massive flooding and destruction because of illegal logging. It's hard to understand the Left's opposition to mining when it is as much to blame for the destruction of our forests.

A veteran labor leader of moderate political inclination once told me that one of his more famous leftist colleagues likes to collect television sets. True or not, it indicates a particular weakness of the Left: it's still an integral part of the existing system and everything that's wrong with that system. Going back to the fetish of the leftist for collecting TV sets, it is nothing compared to the problem facing the radical labor movement: it has yet to go beyond being a protection racket and shakedown syndicate and become a genuine movement for the protection of workers' rights. Labor unions are geniuses at shutting down companies but far from effective when it comes to actually protecting jobs, though moderately more successful in obtaining legislation that sounds good on paper.

At the turn of the last century, 30 percent of London's workers lived below the poverty line. And yet, the period witnessed the rise of the labor movement in Britain, including unions and the Labor Party. There were riots, strikes and protests, too, but the labor movement succeeded because it had a tremendous reservoir of workers whose aspirations it represented and worked for against the conservative instincts of capital.

In our country, not only does a vast majority live below the poverty line, an enormous number of people don't have jobs, period. It is difficult to agitate against the exploitative schemes of employment—such as contractualization—when, for every person holding down any kind of employment, so many are lined up to take his place. A better system of protecting the workers and their rights can be developed only when more employment opportunities are created.

Because it is fixated on industrialization with socialist characteristics, the Left has failed to make inroads in sectors generating new job opportunities in the country, while forcing business owners to close shop through strikes and agitation.

Henry Ford in his time offered the best wages because he realized two things: first, the boredom imposed by routine work on an assembly line kept making people quit their jobs, which affected efficiency since new workers have to be trained; second, well-paid workers not only stayed put, but could then afford to buy the products of his company. Otto von Bismarck created the welfare state as a means of defusing labor unrest while allowing the massive growth of German industry. Britain undertook similar changes, slowly before World War II, and in a big rush when Labor came to power after Hitler's fall. In all these countries, labor began to enjoy a higher standard of living only after a generation or two had been condemned to grinding poverty and misery—enabling the creation of industries and enough wealth to spread around; not to mention the formation of a critical mass of workers large enough for their grievances to become something in the economic interest of capitalists to address.

(To be continued)

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Off the record

TWO weeks ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo met with the editorial staff of the INQUIRER to discuss the latest developments in her administration. She briefed them on, among other things, the results of the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Chile, the coming changes in the Department of Defense and the steps she's taking to avert a financial crisis in the country.

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

Despite the fact that she had just arrived from a 14-hour international flight earlier that day, she remained mentally and physically alert in her more than two hours talk with the staff.

Except for the items she asked to be "off the record," the important aspects of that discussion were written about in the newspaper last week. The staff honored the President's request. The news reports contained only the things she said "on record" or fit (in her opinion) to be published in the newspaper. The columnists who were present that night did the same.

The INQUIRER did not hide that request from its readers. It was mentioned in passing in its reports.

A reader, however, did not feel comfortable with the "off the record" arrangement. He thinks all the information the President divulged to the staff should be shared with the public, and not restricted to the confines of the editorial office. He said "the right of the people to know" line the media often use to convince government officials to be more forthright on matters of public interest should apply to the newspaper vis-à-vis its readers. Something like, what is sauce for the gander should also be sauce for the goose.

Confidentiality

I am not surprised by the interest of the reader in "off the record" statements. This kind of caveat tends to titillate the imagination (like blind items in gossip columns) and stokes curiosity about the truth of some of the things that have been written about.

But much as the reporters and editors want to "tell all" to the readers, they are constrained by certain rules in the profession that prevent them from doing so. The restraint is akin to the obligation of confidentiality that governs lawyers in regard to information revealed to them in confidence by their clients, or doctors vis-à-vis their patients, or priests for confessions made to them by the faithful.

The lawyer or doctor who violates the vow of silence could lose his license and be held liable for whatever damage his unauthorized disclosure may have caused others; the priest who breaks the seal of the confessional may be defrocked.

News sources often cite confidentiality or possible misinterpretation as reason for requesting that some of their statements be "off the record." An unguarded remark by a high-ranking government official can, for example, have an adverse effect on stock market trading or the peso-dollar exchange rate.

While it is ideal for a news source to simply keep his mouth shut on sensitive matters, it is sometimes necessary to give "off the record" information to enable the reporter to understand the significance or context of the facts and figures presented to him. In this way, the news report will (we hope) be accurate and carry the message the news source wants to convey to the readers.

Obligation

The INQUIRER's Manual of Editorial Policies states that information given "off the record" is for the reporter's knowledge only and cannot be printed or made public in any way.

When a news source imposes a "no publication" rule as a condition for answering questions posed by a reporter, it is up to the latter to decide at the beginning of the interview whether or not to agree to the restriction. If he is not amenable to it, he should speak out right away so the news source can either clam up or exercise caution in giving statements. Silence on the reporter's part is considered acquiescence to the suggested arrangement.

The moment a reporter accedes or does not object to an "off the record" request, he is morally obliged to keep his part of the bargain. It's a word-of-honor commitment the reporter has to live up to for ethical and professional reasons. The absence of witnesses to attest to that promise does not make the obligation of confidentiality less binding.

If the reporter breaks his promise, he may find his access to the news source curtailed; his telephone calls may not even be returned. And that could spell trouble with his editor who wants fresh information, not press releases, in news reports. A reporter without a credible news source in his beat might as well ask for a change of assignment; he will be next to useless to the newspaper.

On top of that, the "unreliable" reporter will earn a reputation in the industry as somebody who cannot be trusted with confidential information—a stigma that is bound to haunt him for the rest of his professional life.

Going back to the "off the record" request of the President, can you imagine what will happen if the editorial staff of the INQUIRER reneged on its commitment not to print the things she said in confidence?

The newspaper's access to the top newsmaker of the land could be adversely affected. If that happens, its ability to promptly report the news would be seriously impaired.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Scared

"The DOH (Department of Health) will never implement a population management program. Dayrit is just the alter ego of the President, and the President is scared of the Catholic Church."

—Alagad party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta, urging the return of the Commission on Population to the jurisdiction of the National Economic and Development Authority

Burdensome pay

"People who are not working for the government will not approve of a hike in government salaries, especially if the increase will be taken out of the proceeds from the new tax measures."

—Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin

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GSIS' selective exemptions

I JUST retired from public service, but I was alarmed and distressed to find out that the Government Service Insurance System is deducting five years from my actual service for the alleged failure of the Department of Justice, the agency I was formerly employed with, to remit my premium payments, including the government's share.

Practically all other government employees are in the same predicament. This is so because the GSIS deems insufficient the certifications (attesting to the remittances) of the concerned agencies, unless accompanied by certified copies of the official receipts issued by the GSIS itself. (The official receipt numbers are not enough.) Stated otherwise, it is up to the agencies or employees concerned to prove their remittances, disregarding the time-honored presumption that official duties are regularly performed.

However, GSIS president Winston Garcia made an exception of the Supreme Court justices and employees. When Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., a Cebuano like him, publicly expressed his displeasure over the messy records of the GSIS, Garcia quickly held a dialogue with him and thereafter publicly stated that the GSIS no longer disputes the documents submitted by the Court because the GSIS did not have the Supreme Court records to begin with. So the GSIS and the Supreme Court records are now 100 percent reconciled.

Worse, even if the required documents are submitted, the posting, together with the updating of pertinent records, still moves at a snail's pace, if it is moving at all. This simple matter of posting remittances is a challenge to Garcia's much vaunted management skills.

—MARIO AR. A. ATIENZA,
114-B Evangelista St.,
Batangas City

AIDS awareness campaign

I READ with great interest Ceres Doyo's very informative column about AIDS last Nov. 25. I answered correctly 100 percent of the quiz she incorporated. Credit goes to three weeks of research on the subject matter, which covered some of Doyo's previous columns years back.

I am an architect, temporarily based here in Thailand. No, definitely I'm not HIV positive, just in case you are wondering why I am showing so much interest in it. The reason for this is my handling of our office's entry to the international design competition at the National AIDS Memorial Grove at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, USA. Up against the world's best architects and designers, I think we have a chance.

The campaign for AIDS awareness in our country was started by Doyo's column about Dolzura Cortes. However, 12 years after the *masa* became aware of AIDS, the government has not done much to sustain AIDS awareness the way other countries have been doing with their AIDS posters and billboards. How I wish we can have more.

Thank you for Doyo's columns. They are enriching to the mind, as always.

—LOUISE ALBA,
louise@plan2711.com

Legalizing marijuana

HOW brave and honest of Councilor Noel de Jesus to suggest the decriminalization of marijuana. (PDI, 11/23/04) I have read about death sentences meted out to marijuana smugglers who have, admittedly, broken your laws but who, it seems, haven't actually hurt anyone.

Pure marijuana (cannabis) is unlikely to hurt but a very tiny percentage of people. Judge Young of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency stated: "Marijuana, in its natural form, is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man." How can people be hanged for that?

It makes a pleasant change to read about someone in the Philippines who recognizes the problems that come with prohibiting marijuana—not least that it leaves the supply of the substance in the hands of crooks whose only motive is cash.

But just the decriminalization of marijuana possession will not solve the problems, it will only mean that people can possess it but cannot obtain it: the user will be free from prosecution but the supplier will still be in big trouble.

The answer has to lie in legalizing its home cultivation and commercial supply through regulated outlets. That would separate marijuana from the hard drugs and all the misery the latter cause.

—ALUN BUFFRY,
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LETTERS

Compassion for sidewalk vendors

I DO not see how our economy has improved. Every day, I see many young and old Filipinos eating rotten bananas and papayas from a pile of garbage near my *sari-sari* store. Millions are jobless. Thousands risk their lives for work in the Middle East.

People from the provinces, as far as Mindanao, continue to come to Metro Manila to sell on the sidewalks. These small entrepreneurs whose capital comes from loan sharks, are driven away from the sidewalks by the police—their merchandise confiscated—in spite of their daily "levy" of P50 per vendor.

It is the prime duty of any government to give its constituents employment. But not so in our country, and sidewalk vendors here are deprived of their only means of livelihood.

With the country in crisis and Christmas just days away, perhaps the following measures may be adopted to ease the plight of sidewalk vendors:

1. Allow them to sell on the sidewalks but provide sanctions against those found selling on the streets.

2. Order the market masters to issue these vendors tickets so the government can earn additional income to fund badly needed projects.

Let the words of our Lord Jesus Christ inspire and guide us in our dealings with the poorest among the poor: "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren you do it unto me."

—BENJAMIN C. DE LA FUENTE,
1858 Blumentritt St.,
Sta. Cruz, Manila

Harper wrong on AFP funds

WE refer to Bambi Harper's Nov. 9 column in which she stated that "No one seems to know exactly where the money (referring to the AFP Modernization Fund) went. In a hearing, a senator asked former President Fidel V. Ramos the question to which he huffily replied, "*Nandyan lang 'yan* (It's just there)!"

We wish to clarify that FVR never appeared in any Senate hearing on the AFP Modernization Program. FVR did attend an October 1998 Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing on the Clark Expo project; and in September 2004 on the Smokey Mountain issue. In both appearances, FVR, as former President, went before the Senate against the advice of his lawyer—in order to clarify his decisions and help bring out the truth. In no instance was the matter of the AFP Modernization Fund ever brought up or discussed with any senator.

It seemed that Harper's unnamed source thought rather presumptuously that since he "does not know," no one else would. In any case, please allow us to restate the material facts:

1. The amount of P5.489 billion remitted by the Bases Conversion Development Authority to the National Treasury was placed in a special account earmarked for the program. This was reflected in the Treasury Journal of the Bureau of Treasury.

2. The AFP advised the Office of the President of its readiness to manage the trust fund for the AFP Modernization Program on April 30, 1998, barely two weeks before the elections that year. Prudence dictated that the handling, management and use of the trust fund for the program be left to the incoming administration.

3. During the Estrada administration the AFP Modernization Program was relegated to a low priority in an attempt to reduce the budget deficit then. This can be gleaned in a letter dated July 21, 1998 to then Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado from former Budget Secretary Benjamin Diokno.

4. On May 29, 2000, the Department of Budget and Management issued a Special Allotment Release Order (Saro) to the AFP for P5.4 billion. The issuance of the Saro indicated two things: Firstly, that the AFP Modernization Fund was available and remained intact by the end of the Ramos administration; and secondly, that the Estrada administration exercised control and management over the same fund.

—FRUMENCIO A. LAGUSTAN,
spokesperson of
former President Fidel V. Ramos,
120 Maria Cristina St.,
Ayala Alabang Village,
Muntinlupa City

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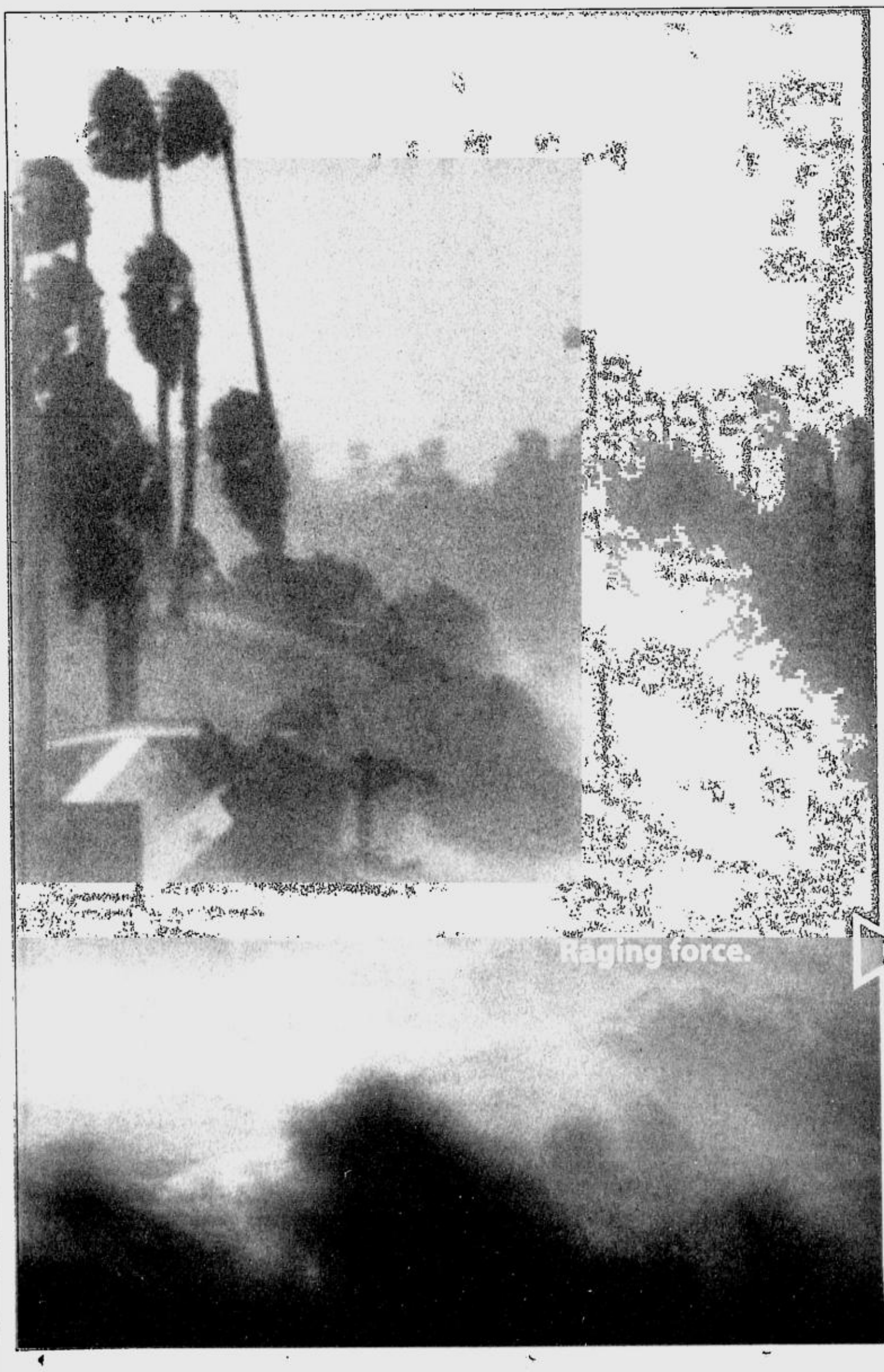

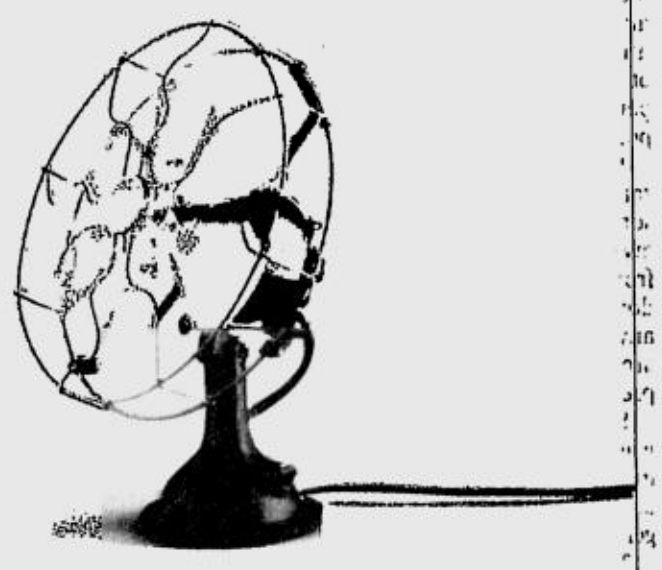

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'Millionaire' exec axed from co-op

By Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CASTILLEJOS, Zambales—The National Electric Administration removed from office the president of the Zambales Electric Cooperative II after he was found to have spent P74,333 a month for four years in mobile phone bills alone and P533,649.84 in plane tickets by traveling 265 days in a year.

He was also found to have awarded a P20-million systems loss reduction project to his dummy company.

Also removed were all members of the cooperative's board of directors who received a total of P3.6 million in benefits, allowances and bonuses, which the NEA found to be illegal.

All the officers of the Zameco II, from president down to the board members who were found overstaying in office, were also disqualified from running for any elective post in any future district elections of the cooperative.

NEA supervises power cooperatives. In some cases, board directors of power cooperatives decide but NEA intervenes in cases involving money loaned to cooperatives.

The case against the Zameco II officials stemmed from a complaint filed by the Castillejos Consumers Association Inc., headed by Dominador Gallardo, on Nov. 18, 2002.

Gallardo is the father of Claretian missionary priest, Fr. Rhoel Gallardo, who was killed by Muslim rebels in Basilan on May 3, 2000, after government soldiers clashed with Muslim separatists holding 27 hostages.

The complaint was based on the June 25, 1998 findings of the management and the financial audit of Zameco II, which was later supported by the July 24, 2003 audit conducted by the NEA.

Named respondents in the complaint were Jose Dominguez, president; Isaias Vindua, vice president; Vicente Barretto, secretary; Jose Santiago, treasurer, and Jose Naseriv Dolojan, Juan Fernandez and Honorio Dilag Jr., board members.

But Dominguez denied all allegations against him and the other officers.

The June 25, 1998 audit showed that the Zameco II board of directors illegally collected 13th month pay, anniversary bonus, mid-year/yearend bonuses, medical/clothing allowances, prompt payment, discount bonus and separation pays from January 1989 to September 1997 amounting to P3.6 million.

The NEA claimed in its resolution that "notwithstanding the disallowance in audit and charging the disallowed amount as receivable from each director, as recommended in the 1998 audit, the Board of Zameco II continuously collected the same benefits without legal basis."

The July 24, 2003 NEA audit report, on the other hand, showed that Zameco II had receivables amounting to P23.5 million from the Central Luzon Power Transmission Development Corp. (CLPTDC) and Zambales Power Corp., which, the report said, were dummy corporations of Dominguez.

The same report also showed that Dominguez reimbursed P14.5 million covering, among others, P533,649.84 worth of plane tickets; meal expenses worth P140,659.62 a month; vitamins and other medicines amounting to P10,000 a week; purchase of computers and cell phone units amounting to P200,000, and prepaid mobile phone cards amounting to P3.5 million. The report said Dominguez had a cell phone covered with a plan paid by the cooperative.

The report also revealed that the cooperative, upon request of Dominguez, paid P225,000 in investments in favor of CLPTDC, which, the NEA audit found out, was no longer operating.

Dominguez's expenses for meetings with the National Power Corp., Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, NEA and CLPTDC ranged from P30,000 to P130,000 a week, the report said.

Two drivers, both assigned to Dominguez, also incurred expenses totaling P4.7 million in three years.

"With his practice of lavish spending, Dominguez did not protect the interest of the cooperative and the member-consumers," the NEA resolution said.

On the issue of their overstaying as Zameco II officers, Dominguez claimed that their continued tenure was authorized by then NEA Administrator Rodrigo Cabrera.

Tight security imposed in premier ARMM port

POLLOC Port, Maguindanao—The premier port of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) will impose tight security policy, following the opening here Friday of an "antiterror-compliant" terminal facility, officials said.

Lawyer Aldin Hayudini, ARMM Regional Cabinet Secretary, said the 560-seater new terminal was designed on standards set under the International Safety for Ship Passengers (ISSP) in connection with the global fight against terrorism.

The seaport that has incurred losses in recent years, received an aid package from the World Bank to attract shipping firms with upgraded services and facilities, said Engr. Murshid Tuttuh, regional port manager.

Dr. Endatun Talusan, Polloc Port manager, said the public had to bear with the new policies that would include what he described as "dehumanizing security measures," even though the management wanted to deputize "the friendliest of Army and police personnel" into the port's security force.

For instance, Talusan said, security personnel would drive away well-wishers from the gate. "We don't want to see anyone loitering around the port premises," he said.

Security personnel will also be strict in frisking and checking on baggages of passengers, Talusan added.

The P 20.7 million "antiterror-compliant" passengers' terminal is part of the $35,000 WB loan, through which the national government is aiding the ARMM Social Fund Project (ASFP), according to Engr. Bernouli Manibpel, ASFP representative.

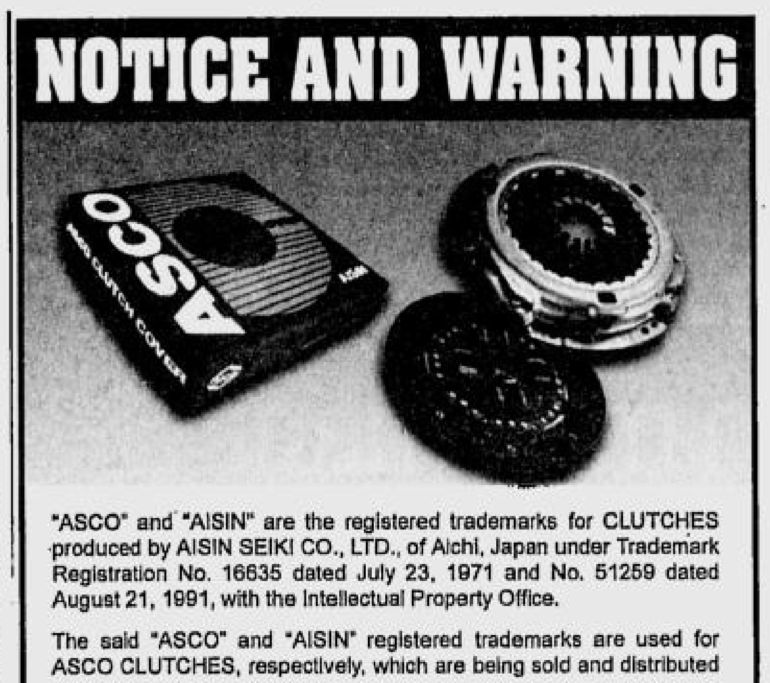
Although designed with international harbor standards, the 28-year-old Polloc Port has remained "underutilized" with declining cargo volume traffic from 72,000 metric tons (MT) to 42,000 MT five years ago, and currently at 20,000 MT, Talusan noted.

Then Highways Minister Jaime Canlas and Autonomous Government Chair Simeon Datumanong had the seaport built in 1976 in international shipping draft standards, and it has since not undergone major rehabilitation.

Only three firms—Lorenzo Shipping, Sulpicio and Aboitiz shipping lines—are using the port.

All are imposing added handling costs for trucking and storage rates, which causes corresponding increases on prices of goods in Maguindanao province and the nearby Cotabato City.

Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau



500 colleagues, kin bury 12th journalist killed this year

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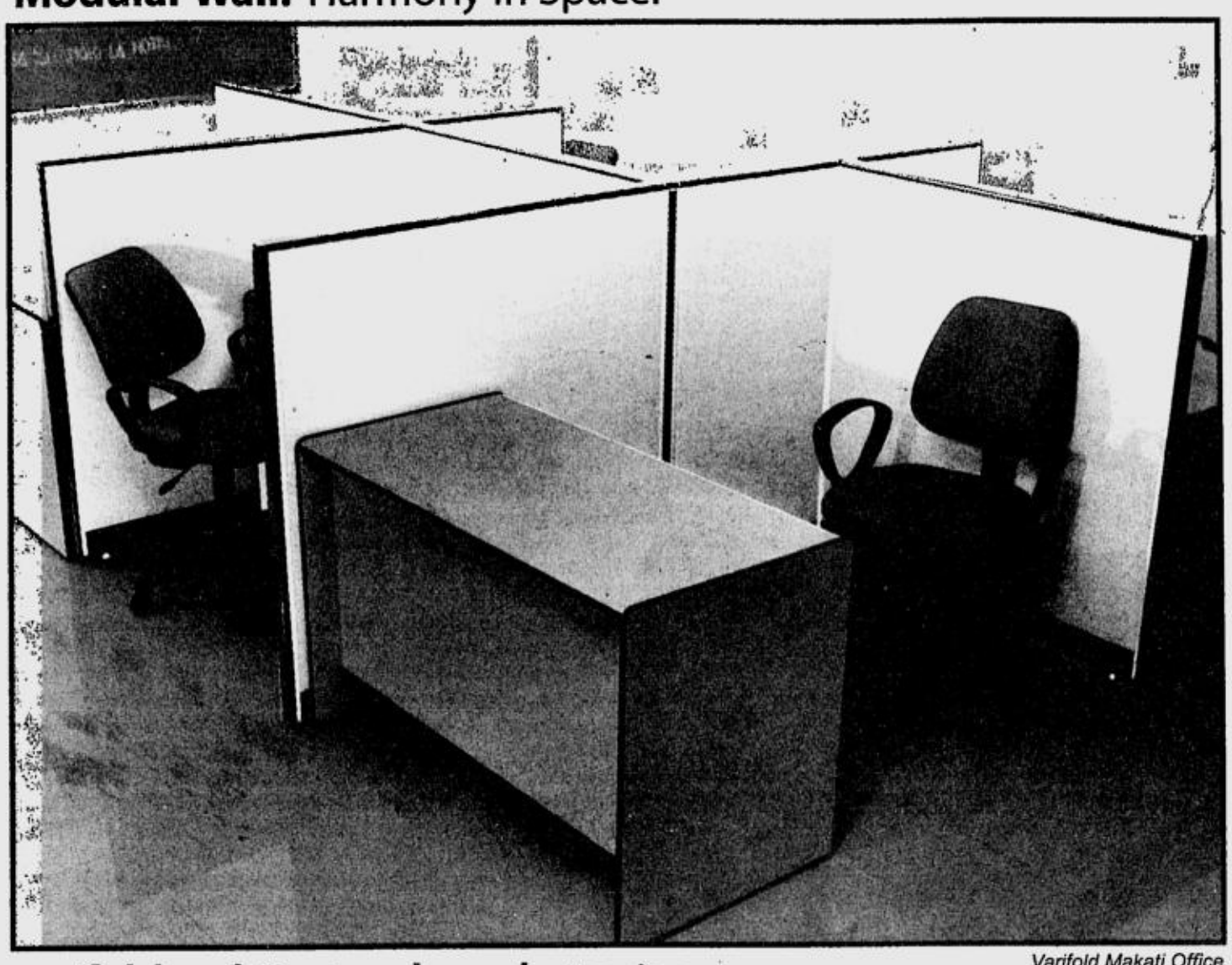

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By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—More than 500 people yesterday came to bid their final farewell to slain photojournalist Allan Dizon and all cried for justice.

During the funeral procession, many family members, fellow journalists and friends were seen carrying placards that read: "Long Live Press Freedom," "Justice for Allan Dizon" and "Don't Kill Journalists."

Instead of a traditional hearse, a *calesa* (horse-drawn cart) was used in the funeral procession because the family wanted the Cebuanos to view his casket and join in their demand for justice.

"We are appealing for justice. More than a week has passed and we have nothing concrete yet. We paraded his body in the hope that the killer's conscience would be touched," said Nympha, Dizon's estranged wife.

The couple has been separated since 2000. They have three children—Charmie Ann, 10; Lenny Chan, 8 and Vanessa Mae, 6.

The funeral procession started from San Fernando Funeral Homes on Natalio Bacalso Street. His remains were first brought to his old home in Barangay Lorega before bringing him to the Blessed Sacrament in Barangay Mabolo for the requiem Mass.

He was finally laid to rest at about 2 p.m. at the Queen City Memorial Garden, Cebu's first memorial park located at the north reclamation area here.

Dizon, 30, a photographer of the Freeman Newspaper, was shot three times by a lone assailant on the street just outside SM City at 6:59 p.m. of Nov. 27. He died one-and-a-half hours later at the Cebu City Medical Center.

He was the 12th journalist killed this year and the 61st since 1986, according to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP).

Nympha said that shortly after the killing, her brother called her up in Malaysia where she was working and informed her about it.

"I never knew he had enemies. He was a very nice and friendly person. He was very generous because he gave a lot, he always wanted to help people. Even if we separated, I still loved him," she said.

Amelina Ruben, 30, Dizon's partner for four years, also urged authorities to expedite the investigation and arrest the suspect. Ruben has a 3-year-old daughter with Dizon.

Joy Tumulak, president of the Cebu Federation of Beat Journalists, reiterated their plea to authorities to immediately solve the killing.

"We call on the authorities to solve the murder case. Give justice to Allan's death," he stressed.

Mayor Tomas Osmeña earlier told reporters that a video carrera syndicate had a hand in Dizon's killing.

A policeman is facing investigation after he was found to have sent text messages to Dizon, hours before the photojournalist was killed.

Supt. Paul Labra, Cebu City Police Office-Criminal Intelligence and Investigation Bureau chief, however, said PO2 Brazilio Borinaga was not considered a suspect.

Borinaga said he did send text messages to Dizon to tell him to meet him the following day to discuss some information relayed by Dizon. ***With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE SENATE

We are concerned that in the desire to demonstrate quick action on the fiscal crisis, the government is pushing for the legislation of revenue measures in the shortest time possible while giving less importance to the quality of their content. We applaud its quest for speed. But we are dismayed that the government has exhibited almost too willing an acceptance to compromise and give in to the demands of powerful groups.

Indeed, the fiscal crisis is serious, and we fully concur with the government's sense of urgency of the need for quick and decisive action. However, government must not miss this opportunity to correct serious weaknesses of the tax system made endemic through inefficiencies in legislation, administration, and compliance. To achieve both objectives, what is needed therefore, is not a blind compromise, but strong political will and decisive leadership to push the correct measures in the record speed required.

The first test of government's resolve to act not only quickly but also intelligently and judiciously in addressing the fiscal crisis is the proposed legislation for the indexation of sin taxes. After the House had passed a weak and compromise-ridden version of the bill, the current challenge of the Senate is to craft a bill that would free the excise tax system from the distortions and administrative complications that have made the tax system not only unproductive but also unjust. Fortunately, the relevant issues and the specific measures that can adequately address these inefficiencies are provided in Senate Bill No. 1815 authored by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

We therefore call on the distinguished and enlightened members of the Senate to support the Enrile version of the sin tax bill and demonstrate once again that the Senate is a bastion of wisdom and good sense that can be relied on to produce the right laws and good policies for the nation.

We would like to make the following observations:

1. The Philippines has a 5-tier tax rate system for cigarettes, which is perhaps the most complicated in the world. The large difference between the tax rate of medium-priced and low-priced cigarettes (P4.48 per pack) effectively tempts evasion and corruption. There is a large incentive for a manufacturer to mis-declare cigarettes as low-priced, and this defrauds government of billions of revenues.

The Enrile bill simplifies the cigarette excise tax system through variable increases in the tax rates for different cigarette classes, leading to a convergence into a single tax rate of P13.50 within a six-year period.

2. The Philippines has one of the lowest excise tax rates on cigarettes in the region, if not in the world. The average tax rate[1] is P4.48 per pack. Compare this with Malaysia- P15.68; Taiwan-P19.60; Korea-P24.64; Japan-P81.20; and Singapore- P193.20.

The US excise tax system consists of a Federal and a state excise tax. Counties and cities may impose additional taxes. The state tax per pack reaches a high of US$ 2.05 (P114.80) in New Jersey. Most states allocate a portion of the excise tax to support public health relating to cancer.

It has been proven that cigarettes cause cancer. WHO estimates that lung cancer and other tobacco-related diseases kill 20,000 Filipinos yearly and leave the government and citizens poorer by about P46 billion in economic and medical costs annually.

The Enrile bill increases the tax rates on cigarettes in an effort to deter the consumption of a vice. Revenues from increased tax rates can help the government provide for the treatment of tobacco-induced diseases. Passive smokers especially deserve to be protected from the negative externalities of smoking. The bill allocates part of the incremental revenues to help modernize hospital facilities and care throughout the country.

3. The excise tax bill in 1996 was legislated without the indexation of tax rates relative to inflation. As a result, increases in prices of beer, liquor, and cigarettes have only benefited their manufacturers. The revenue collection from these products fell from 2.6 percent of GDP in 1997 to 1.31 percent in 2003 with government and taxpayers ending up as losers.

The Enrile bill provides for the indexation or the adjustment of tax rates relative to inflation in 2013. It allows the tax rates to keep pace with average changes in prices.

4. Government was deprived of significant revenues in 1997 and 2000 through the practice of production loading. Manufacturers increase cigarette production and inventory prior to a tax increase to avoid payment of a higher tax rate.

The Enrile bill introduces a provision that prevents production loading. Moreover, it mandates the implementation of monthly inventory information and a system for tamper proof stamps on cigarette packs as proof of payment by a company.

5. The provision that requires the government to keep the 1996 classification of cigarettes until Congress revises it has deprived government of additional revenues. Low-priced cigarettes remain subject to low tax rate regardless of whether their prices have increased.

The Enrile bill avoids the confrontation that may result from the reclassification of cigarettes since this issue will become irrelevant when tax rates converge into a single rate. Thus, the additional revenues resulting from his bill is P11.32 billion (compared to P18.2 billion if it allows for reclassification). This amount is still significantly higher than the additional revenues from the House bill and that which has been adopted by the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which is roughly P4.0 billion.[2]

The main criticism against the Enrile bill is that it will increase the tax burden on low-priced cigarettes by 436 percent, from P1.12 to P6.00 per pack in 2005.

But put in better perspective, this tax increase translates to only 25 centavos per stick (a larger increase in the high/premium-priced cigarettes can be imposed). This increase is certainly low on a socially undesirable product. And if the poor smoker reduces his cigarette consumption because of this, aren't he and his family being better off?

Indeed, the same cigarette, whether low-or high-priced causes cancer, as indisputably proven by various studies. Thus, while the government may vow to protect the poor by imposing a lower tax on low-priced cigarettes, the perverse effect is that it encourages and propagates cancer among the poor. It is indeed an insidious practice to induce sickness among those who can least afford the cost of health care.

The Enrile bill provides for provisions that will simplify the excise tax structure and promote its efficient administration and compliance. Moreover, it aims to correct the negative externalities from smoking.

We are hopeful that the Honorable Members of the Senate and the House will adopt its provisions and legislate an excise tax bill that will demonstrate the leadership and responsibility that the fiscal crisis requires.

Viewed against the backdrop of present circumstances, the final form of the sin taxes bill will define either what we have become or what we should be – a people that has lost its sense of direction or one that has decided where it should go.

VICENTE R. JAYME
Former Finance Secretary

JESUS P. ESTANISLAO
Former Finance Secretary

ROBERTO F. DE OCAMPO
Former Finance Secretary

ERNEST C. LEUNG
Former Acting Finance Secretary

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[1] The composite weighted average from the four cigarette tax rates

[2] Great caution is advised on appreciating the revenue impact. The numbers should be comparable. Are revenues quoted in terms of total or additional? Are revenues from cigarette products alone or from beer, liquor and cigarettes?

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Peru bet Miss World

From page A1

Her win came as something of a surprise as she was not one of the five finalists who won various competitions in the past weeks.

The contest, held in this resort town on the tropical island province of Hainan, saw 107 contestants flaunt their looks to impress millions of television viewers worldwide who picked the winner via telephone, SMS text messages and Internet voting. In previous Miss World pageants, the winner was chosen by a panel of judges.

"The fact that I am the first Miss World to be decided by a global vote makes this award unbelievably precious," said Mantilla Garcia, who was crowned late Saturday by last year's winner, Miss Ireland Rosanna Davison, daughter of "Lady in Red" pop crooner Chris de Burgh.

Mantilla Garcia was born in Trujillo on the north coast of Peru. She is studying to become a high school teacher, but said she was also considering a career in tourism.

Wearing a low-cut peacock blue evening dress, the brunette said she wanted to be involved in charity work and to learn more English in the year ahead.

"Sorry I can't speak much English ... I need to learn more," she said.

As part of her contract with Miss World, she will assume a busy travel schedule to help raise funds for charitable organizations.

China officially lifted a 54-year ban on beauty contests last year and hosted Miss World in Sanya for the first time.

Beauty contests are regarded as a novelty in China, which had lived for decades under the iron grip of communist ideology. Many Chinese people now view these pageants as colorful symbols of progress and openness, in contrast with the West where they have long been ridiculed and attacked as degrading. *AFP*

9 big loggers identified

From page A1

country amid the disaster that struck the Sierra Madre mountain range, where Aurora and parts of Quezon lie.

"The logging activities of these legitimate companies are the main reason the mountains are bald," Estriber said in Filipino.

"Government was deaf to our appeals for a large-scale corporate log ban since 1991," he said.

A mere joke

A staunch supporter of Ms Arroyo himself appeared unimpressed by her declaration of an all-out war against illegal loggers.

At yesterday's briefing of the National Disaster Coordinating Council at Camp Aguinaldo, Sen. Richard Gordon described as a joke the President's tough talk on logging.

"*Bola 'yan*" (That's a joke)," Gordon said at the meeting attended by United States Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and his delegation that included a representative of the US Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, as well as Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and presidential adviser Cito Lorenzo.

Gordon called for "radical positive measures" to ensure reforestation in the aftermath of the disaster. He reiterated his suggestion to mobilize students and even prisoners in the effort.

Sought for comment later, the senator seemed to backpedal, explaining that his criticism was not directed at the President or anybody.

"I'm just using that euphemistically," he said. "It's a common reaction by Filipinos to say, 'Oh, we'll go after illegal loggers the same way we'll go after smugglers.' But unless we really work together as a people, we're not gonna be able to do that."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President wanted the ban on logging to take effect as soon as possible. He said on RMN radio that "we need the help of everybody to fully implement it (the ban)."

He said the ban was "timely and appropriate" because those who held the permits had been fast and loose in cutting down trees.

Any investigation into the root cause of the tragedy should include a scrutiny of the five biggest logging concessionaires in Aurora and Quezon that were granted permits by the Arroyo administration, according to a militant group.

Pamalakaya said the Office of the President and the DENR approved the logging operations of International Hardwood and Veneer Corp., Timberland Forest Products, Industries Development Corp., RCC Timber Co. and Top Lite Corp.

The government granted permits and concessions to these "logging giants" in the form of Ifmas between January 2001 and November 2002, Pamalakaya chair Fernando Hicap said in a statement.

The group said this was how the five firms got their permits:

- In January 2001, the government allowed International Hardwood and Veneer Corp. to operate on 13,527 hectares of forest in Mauban, Quezon.
- On Nov. 12, 2002, the national government through the DENR approved the logging operation of Timberland Forest Products, covering 34,660 ha in General Nakar.
- On Dec. 5, 2001, the President also approved the operations of Industries Development Corp. and RCC Timber Co. in Aurora through the Ifma. The two companies were allowed 48,877 ha and 23,140 ha, respectively.
- On July 9, 2002, the DENR approved the logging permit of Top Lite Corp., also in Aurora, which covered 8,630 ha. "While former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun suspended the permit for quite some time, new Environment Secretary Michael Defensor overturned the decision and lifted the suspension two weeks ago," the group said.

Prosecute firms, politicians

Estriber said the President should also order the prosecution of corporations, politicians and officials and personnel of the DENR responsible for destroying the Sierra Madre forests.

Companies "patronized" the illegal loggers who were actually their sources of wood, Estriber said.

Most "carabao loggers," those who use carabaos to haul timber, are controlled by politicians who finance the operations, according to the MSAG secretary.

Estriber noted that last year, a light cargo vessel loaded with timber owned by a politician sank off Dilasag town in northern Aurora. Another politician, he said, was caught several times transporting illegally cut timber. Estriber, however, did not name the officials.

"We're challenging the authorities to make a stand for the future of the next generations. If the government is unable to stop logging, perhaps its enemy, the New People's Army, can," Estriber said.

The President earlier blamed the NPA for the flooding and landslides, saying that military reports showed that the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines had asked for protection money from loggers.

In Isabela, Jose Ma. Lorenzo Tan, president of World Wide Fund for Nature-Philippines, described as "a political band aid" the government's move to suspend all logging operations in the country.

"The best solution here is implementation of the existing environment laws judicially and equally for the people. [This will be effective if] coupled with good governance," Tan told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. *Reports from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk; Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Christian V. Esguerra, Volt Contreras and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Manila*

SC acts as economic catalyst

From page A1

administration in 2001 as a result of Edsa II.

Since January 2001, the court has stood as the pillar of legitimacy of the first Arroyo administration, reinforcing it with three decisions that established the legal basis of its installation as successor government to a democratically elected regime that collapsed under the extralegal pressure of "people power" and military defection.

Following the presidential election in May, whose results are still being challenged before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, the court's decision on Wednesday, upholding the constitutionality of the 1995 Mining Act, marks a turn away from a highly politicized role.

It comes as a timely shift of attention to the economy as the country settles down to relative political stability after the election and as it refocuses its priorities on the crippling fiscal crisis.

Leaving aside the economic impact for further examination, the sovereignty aspects of the decision with regard to control of the national patrimony require immediate elucidation.

The decision, penned by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, overturned the court's January 2004 ruling that the 1995 Mining Act and the Financial and Technical Assistance Agreement (FTAA) signed by the government with an Australian mining company were unconstitutional.

It clarified an important issue concerning sovereignty over the natural resources.

The Dec. 2 decision said the 1995 FTAA did not contravene the 1987 Constitution because it expressly allowed service contracts in "large-scale exploration, development and utilization of minerals, petroleum and mineral oils."

It made it clear that the FTAA did not surrender national sovereignty over natural resources to foreign mining companies.

"All mineral resources are owned by the State. Their exploration, development and utilization (EDU) must always be subject to the full control and supervision of the State" (through the executive and legislative departments), it said.

Inadequacy of capital

It added: "More specifically, given the inadequacy of Filipino capital and technology in large-scale EDU activities, the State may secure the help of foreign companies ... provided that, at all times, the State maintains its rights of full control."

Here, "control" of resources is the key word.

The decision took pains to point out that the text of the Constitution and the drafting history of the Constitution do not ban service contracts. It concludes that the FTAA did not relinquish state control over operations of the foreign mining firms to the companies.

In throwing open the mining sector to foreign companies and the entry of large-scale capital, the court sought to strike a balance between economic development and parochial concerns. "The Constitution should be read in broad life-giving strokes," the decision said.

"Rather, it should be construed to grant the President and Congress sufficient discretion and reasonable leeway to enable them to attract foreign investments and expertise, as well as to secure our people and our posterity the blessings of prosperity and peace."

This passage gives the decision a larger economic framework.

Narrow interests

By naming "narrow interests," the court referred to and addressed the environmental concerns of groups which could be affected by mining operations.

It said: "Verily, the mineral wealth and natural resources of this country are meant to benefit not merely a select group of people living in the areas locally affected by mining activities, but the entire Filipino nation, present and future to whom the mineral wealth really belongs. This court has therefore weighed carefully the rights and interests of all concerned and decided for the greater good of the greatest number."

The court served notice that it was not standing in the way of economic development through restrictive interpretation of the nationalist provisions of the Constitution.

While it made clear that the Constitution gave the President a mandate to enter into FTAAs with wholly owned foreign companies and that Congress had the right to review such contracts, the ruling said the Constitution was silent on the role of the court.

However, the decision said, "Clearly then, the judiciary should not inordinately interfere in the exercise of the presidential power of control over the exploration, development and utilization of our natural resources."

Propensity to issue TROs

In redefining its own role in facilitating economic development, it was not lost on the court that it, as well as the lower courts, had come under criticism from the business sector and the foreign business community for their propensity to issue TROs (temporary restraining orders) on controversial business contracts being questioned by losing bidders.

Judicial intervention in contracts, especially those involving big-ticket infrastructure projects, has been blamed by the business community as partly responsible for the uncertainty in doing business in the country, together with political instability.

Based on the reaction so far from the business sector, the court's decision has the immediate impact of introducing a more business friendly judicial environment attuned to the needs of economic development.

85 bodies buried in one grave; Real survivors flee

From page A1

in three evacuation centers, it was an altogether different story.

There, in Dingalan town, the evacuees were grateful for the relief packages containing rice, canned goods, noodles, sugar and coffee, blankets and used clothes.

But please, they said, can you add underwear?

"They need panties," Councilor Shiela Taay told the INQUIRER. "They were just too ashamed to ask but ... they badly need those."

The males, too, desperately needed underwear, she said.

But whether in Quezon, Aurora or the Bicol provinces, the common plea among simple residents who survived the disastrous storms was for food.

Hunger stalks them

"We will die of hunger there," said Bernardo Bautista, 33, who had to abandon an evacuation center in Infanta due to lack of food.

Bautista, his wife and three children had to walk barefoot for about three hours through mud and over dead bodies to reach nearby Real—only to find there was not much to eat in evacuation camps there, too.

Hugging two of his children, including one aged 4, Bautista pleaded with members of the Air Force search-and-rescue team to take them to Manila.

"We have no food here, no clothes, no home to return to, please take us out of here," he said, adding they would be better off in his mother's home in Fairview, Quezon City.

His wife Pelicula, apparently in a state of shock, shivered as she cuddled 3-year-old Bernardo Jr.

A different tragedy

The Bautistas eventually reached Villamor Air Base at about 3 a.m., along with wounded and sick people, pregnant women and the elderly who were airlifted by the PAF's 505th Search and Rescue Group.

In Mercedes, Camarines Norte, the story was that of Gracia de la Cruz, a pregnant mother who lost two children in a space of a few hours.

First, she lost 4-year-old Christian, who succumbed to bronchopneumonia and gastroenteritis.

Amid the storms, De la Cruz brought her dying son to the Camarines Norte Provincial Hospital. While there, she began suffering abdominal pains.

"A doctor checked me up and told me I'd be having the baby in five days yet," she said. "After I was checked, I went to the toilet to try to relieve myself because my abdomen was too painful. When I looked, I saw the head of my baby."

She lost that one, too.

Grumbling stomachs

"We buried the 85 bodies in one single grave," Real social worker Nora Sollestre said. "Some of these were identified but others were not. We just took individual photos of the bodies before they were laid down in the deep grave," she added.

Nearly 200 people died in Real while at least 144 were still missing.

In Infanta, Mayor Grace America tried to provide her people with whatever relief goods she could lay her hands on.

But with throngs gathered in the covered basketball court, now carpeted with four-cm thick mud, she knew she could not find enough food to pacify the grumblings of thousands of hungry stomachs.

"I pity my people. They are all hungry, sick and emotionally devastated," America said.

She said the P1 million that President Macapagal-Arroyo gave for calamity victims could barely last a couple of days.

Mementos of the dead

While she talked to the INQUIRER, an old woman handed America two rings which had been removed from the unidentified bodies of two women found in a coastal village.

America dropped the rings into a wooden box containing other personal belongings of the dead.

She said she had ordered the mass burial of 69 bodies in her town. "Some were identified, others were just noted based on the markings in the bodies," she said. "I had to order the mass burial in order to prevent the spread of disease."

The bodies were placed in apartment-type vaults.

"We put several bodies in each vault, whatever could be contained in each hole," she said.

Reports of the discovery of more bodies kept coming.

US envoy sees suffering

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone toured the disaster areas to assess what kind of assistance his country could provide.

"The destruction ... was really much worse than I thought even from newspaper reporting. It's great to see people pulling together," said Ricciardone in Baler town.

Many families in Mercedes, Camarines Norte, were left without homes or even safe water to drink.

One such family was that of 17-year-old Jeanette Perdigon, whose 3-month-old son Gerald is suffering from severe dehydration. They were among hundreds staying at a schoolhouse.

"The child is so severely dehydrated that he is in grave danger of dying," said Dale Rutsein of the United Nations Children's Fund. "I don't think the mother can get safe drinking water for his milk formula from the evacuation center."

No more rivers

Unicef sent a relief mission to Camarines Norte, bringing more than P100,000 worth of canned goods, antibiotics and water purification tablets.

Officials said the landslides that hit Dingalan virtually without warning on Nov. 23 gave residents no time to pack their belongings. About 7,000 families are now sheltered at the town's elementary and high school buildings and at the municipal hall.

"Some have only a piece of underwear," Councilor Taay said. "Others have a few borrowed ones from relatives."

Medicines were also badly needed because evacuees were starting to suffer from fever, diarrhea and coughs. Drugstores were either closed or had run out of stocks.

Between 40 and 60 people were packed into each room measuring 8 by 10 meters.

On Saturday, tension rose over the alleged refusal of a municipal health officer to hand out drugs for fever and diarrhea to a mother whose child was sick.

"This woman came all the way from Barangay Dikapanikian. She braved the rough sea to reach the poblacion only to be turned away," Taay said. "I told the doctor the mother could be instructed on the amount of dosage she could give her child. [The doctor] refused. He wanted to diagnose the child first. The woman left crying."

She said potable water had become a rare commodity in the town.

The town's streams and the Mahogany waterfalls, where residents usually got their water supply, were gone, covered by debris from the mountain. *With reports from Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora*

Figuring out casualty toll

AS FAR as can be known, more than 1,300 people were either dead or missing in the wake of four successive tropical cyclones which swept across Luzon. But the total casualty toll may not be known, Army rescue chief Col. Jaime Buenaflor said.

As of noon yesterday, the provisional casualty toll stood at 628 dead, 718 missing and 579 injured, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman said.

"It's really difficult to get exact figures. Some people were swept out to the sea," Buenaflor said on television. "We're coming up only with estimates and our estimates are very rough."

"I think the overall casualty toll will be much higher ... One building in Real collapsed and residents said they saw almost 100 people trapped. In Infanta, many are still unaccounted for."

Here is a breakdown of casualties per storm, based on figures released by Soliman:

- "Unding"—65 dead, 160 injured, 69 missing.
- "Violeta"—26 dead, 14 injured, 4 missing.
- "Winnie"—500 dead, 373 injured, 607 missing.
- "Yoyong"—37 dead, 32 injured, 38 missing.

Soliman said mass burials had become "common" in devastated towns in Quezon.

"We can no longer cope with requests for body bags," she said, adding that people had been allowed to "bury the dead anywhere they can dig."

Come summer, their bones will be exhumed so they can be given proper burials in cemeteries, Soliman said.

Some of those buried in mass graves were unidentified. *Volt Contreras*

International relief pours in for typhoon victims

From page A1

aging more than P3 billion worth of crops and infrastructure, and causing misery to a million others.

As relief and other forms of assistance began pouring in, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman appealed for more help.

"The appeal we're now making is in rehabilitation," Soliman said. "That really means rebuilding water systems, toilets, livelihood in agriculture for people whose farmlands were buried in mud."

The United States, Japan, the European Union and the International Red Cross were among the first to respond with financial help, transport and relief goods. The United Nations offered its help, too.

A team from the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (Undac) was scheduled to arrive in Manila to address the short, medium and long-term requirements of recovery and rehabilitation of the affected areas, said Ambassador Lauro Baja Jr., the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The team will also act as a channel for contributions from the international donor community, Baja added.

Sagip Buhay

Operation Sagip Buhay, a humanitarian effort launched by multi-sectoral groups that include the INQUIRER, had raised as of yesterday up to P29 million worth of relief goods for the thousands victimized by the recent typhoons, according to Soliman.

The US government has deployed American forces in several ravaged areas to extend humanitarian assistance and relief to residents dislocated by flash floods and landslides.

Concern for lives

"US forces are moving rapidly to provide the needs and services requested by the government of the Philippines," embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said, stressing that they would remain on the ground as long as necessary.

On top of this, the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the US Agency for International Development has allocated another $100,000 to the Philippine National Red Cross to address the "immediate and urgent needs" of the victims.

The OFDA will also send 500 body bags worth $13,000 and 80 rolls of shelter material, estimated at $20,000, which could shelter 800 families, she said.

Ricciardone appalled

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone flew by helicopter to hardest-hit Quezon province to assess the damage and other needs of the residents.

"The devastation was worse than I had imagined," Ricciardone said. "It was quite distressing, logs everywhere, mud everywhere, roads were cut off in many places and bridges were down."

A 14-man team from the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force stationed in Okinawa, Japan, also took off aboard a helicopter from the US Embassy grounds to conduct its own assessment in some areas in Luzon, according to Kelley.

Some US specialists now in the country for joint American-Filipino military exercises have been ordered to extend their stay so they could take part in relief operations, Kelley said.

Japan was sending a team of medical doctors as well as representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan International Cooperation Agency to assess the other needs of the typhoon victims.

Earlier, Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki pledged separately to donate P15 million worth of relief and other materials to the Philippines.

UN experts

The United Nations has deployed a team of experts to assist the Philippine government in assessing the extent of the damage and in coordinating the international response to the disaster, Baja said in a statement.

Baja said the Philippine mission had been informed that the UN country team in Manila was helping the government in resource mobilization and would also assist in the distribution of relief supplies.

Echo, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department, has allocated some 1 million euros in assistance to the typhoon victims, the European Commission said.

"In situations like this, it is our duty to respond immediately. But where many affected areas are inaccessible, it can take some time for a clear picture to emerge," said Louis Michel, the commissioner responsible for the development and humanitarian aid.

"We want to use our relief funds as effectively as possible which is why we have sent an expert to the area immediately."

Sagip Buhay's operation has resulted in a flood of matches, instant noodles, hard boiled eggs, shirts, body bags and even power generators in the group's drop-off and repacking center at Warehouse 9 in Camp Aguinaldo.

Major benefactor

But in an INQUIRER interview, Soliman aired a specific appeal for donors to also send over more pediatric medicines, especially for cough, colds and fever; diapers, and orisol (anti-diarrhea solution), saying these items, as well as food, were now critically needed in the evacuation centers.

In an inventory of Sagip Buhay donations obtained by the INQUIRER, the Japan International Cooperation Agency emerged as the single biggest benefactor.

Among the major corporate donors were Asia Brewery and the Lucio Tan Group of Companies, Nestlé Philippines, ABS-CBN, the Aboitiz group, Jaka Equipment Corp., Development Bank of the Philippines, International Container Terminal Services Inc. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

From civic groups, the donors included the Zonta Club, University of the Philippines Student Catholic Action; members of the Philippine Air Force, AFP Officers' Ladies Club, and the Presidential Security Group Ladies Club; and the Regata West Subdivision Homeowners Association.

Individual contributors, like Arlene Keh, sent over nonfood items, such as beddings, towels, toiletries and assorted clothes, while Martin Galvez threw in raincoats, candles and toys.

Corporate donors

Sagip Buhay partner organizations include the INQUIRER, the Ayala Foundation, the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart, the Prelate of Infanta in Quezon, Unilab, Hands On Manila, the Assisi Foundation and the Corporate Network for Disaster Response.

The Sagip Buhay Manila-based operation can be reached through Fr. Francis Lucas, tel. no. (0918) 927-5813, or Sanny Jegillos (0918) 919-1736.

Nothing is definite yet as to the resumption of classes, but Unicef is preparing "school packs" for the children to replace their lost notebooks, bags and other school supplies, Soliman reported.

"We would like to help in rehabilitation. We want to help in providing construction materials, like nails and GI (galvanized iron) sheets, because they have wood to work with," said Tess Usapdin, PNRC communications director.

Since the PNRC called for international aid last week before Typhoon Yoyong hit the country, it has received some P30 million in foreign assistance that came in cash and relief goods, Usapdin said.

Apart from the aid it had received from Spain, the International Federation of the Red Cross and local companies, the PNRC also received around P4.4 million from its Malaysian counterpart, the Malaysian Red Crescent, and a pledge of P8.7 million from the Australian Embassy.

The PNRC had said it would need between P56 million and P100 million to help affected families in Central and Southern Luzon, and the Bicol region. *With a report from Tarra V. Quismundo*

Forest rangers rarer than Philippine eagles

From page A1

there are more Philippine eagles than forest guards," said Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri (Lakas, Bukidnon).

There is only one ranger for every 3,481 hectares of forests, "which makes the government forest ranger the real endangered species," he said.

Nationwide, roughly 4,500 forest rangers watch over 15 million hectares of forest lands.

"On the average, there are about 300 forest rangers per region. Imagine an area the size of Mindanao with only 1,800 rangers and you get the alarming picture," Zubiri said.

He added that forest rangers were paid P9,000 a month. Most of them do the job with just their wits and rosaries. They lack equipment, such as vehicles, radios and firefighting gear.

President Macapagal-Arroyo recently ordered the arming of forest rangers as part of a renewed drive against illegal logging following the disastrous floods that hit Luzon.

"They were armed only with rosaries in the face of death threats from poachers and illegal loggers," Zubiri said.

The lawmaker brought up the lack of forest rangers to draw attention to the lack of government resources and manpower to stop illegal logging.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has proposed a budget of P5.6 billion for 2005. "But because the agency takes care of everything under the sun—water, land, air, wildlife, forests, as well as minerals under the ground, that amount is inadequate," Zubiri said.

He suggested that the DENR be allowed to retain more of its income and to increase forest charges so it could hire more rangers.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. (LP, Camarines Sur), chair of the House appropriations committee, made a similar recommendation, saying that raising fees would augment the department's budget and fund conservation activities.

He noted that the DENR was able to collect only P106 million in forest charges from logging in 2002 or a measly 1/56th of its budget of almost P6 billion in the same year.

"From 1998 to 2002, the government spent P27 billion for the operations of the DENR. But the DENR was only able to collect P762 million in forest charges on harvested logs during the same period," he said.

Andaya explained that Ms Arroyo's declaration of a nationwide logging moratorium does not render his call moot and academic as the order "appears to be temporary and covers Timber License Agreements only."

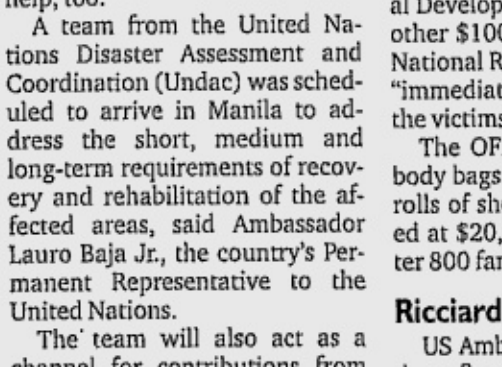
He added: "There's rattan—where the allowable harvest in 2002 was 42 million meters or 42,000 kilometers. That's more than 10 times the length of the Philippine archipelago."

Quasi-TLAs exist, he said, citing tree plantations and community-managed forests where log harvesting is allowed.

"Of the 403,000 cubic meters of logs harvested in 2002, only 89,000 cubic meters were from naturally grown trees. The rest came from plantations, so the DENR claims," Andaya said.

He said he was open to increasing the DENR's budget next year, but the agency must first demonstrate its ability to internally generate income.

"If the DENR could collect more from permits and licenses it would issue next year, it should be allowed to retain part of its income as an incentive," Andaya said.



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Atienza anthem order 'toothless'

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IT IS a measure good only on paper.

A Manila minority councilor had this to say about the executive order of Mayor Lito Atienza requiring all malls in Manila to play the national anthem at the beginning and end of their business days.

"It's just on paper. How would that be implemented if there is no law requiring that?" said first district Councilor Francisco Domagoso, better known as Isko Moreno.

However, Moreno added that should Atienza seek an ordinance to give teeth to his order, the measure would breeze through the City Council.

"There is no question, we would be behind this measure, because we are also for encouraging nationalism," he continued.

Atienza issued the order last week as part of City Hall's drive to restore patriotic pride among Manilans through the display of the Philippine flag all over the city and the playing of the anthem in malls.

He said the order would be implemented immediately. He warned people who would not cooperate with the program that they would face "having a harsh relationship with City Hall."

"In principle, its okay. But the way he will do it, it's beyond his powers," said Domagoso, saying that the punishment the mayor had thought of seemed dictatorial.

Atienza has acknowledged that an ordinance would be needed to back up his order so that the the measure may be implemented "forever."

In fact, his allies in the Council have begun drafting the needed measure.

Funds for folk affected by rail project ready

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE MONEY is ready.

National Housing Authority officials said yesterday that it was ready to release the disturbance compensation for Malabon City residents to be displaced by the Northrail Project.

"We can release the money anytime. We are just waiting for them (affected residents)," NHA assistant general manager Jopet Sison told the INQUIRER.

Some affected residents said a few days ago they were ready to move out of their houses but they were just waiting for their disturbance fund of P50,000 per family.

The two rival groups in the area have both opted to avail of the Balik Probinsiya program offered by the NHA after they refused to relocated to an already developed relocation site in Towerville, San Jose Del Monte City in Bulacan.

The families will use the money to initially pay for the private lots they plan to buy.

Members of the Samahan ng mga Naninirahan sa Riles (Malabon City) are already negotiating with the owner of a private property in Panghulo, Malabon, while members of the Federation of Railways Informal Settlers in Malabon have started negotiating with the owner of an agricultural land in Pandi, Bulacan.

But Sison said none of the negotiations had been finalized.

According to an NHA official, negotiations for a sale should also be completed first. Then the NHA would have to sign a memorandum of understanding with the land owners and the residents before the money could be released, he added.

Vice President and Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council Chair Noli De Castro earlier announced the affected houses along the project would have to be demolished before the end of November.

A House of Representatives committee sought a moratorium on any demolition because the residents had not yet chosen a relocation site.

The moratorium has since been lifted and the long-delayed relocation of Malabon residents have begun progressing, House committee on housing member Rep. Mayong Aguja said.

GARBAGE in, fertilizer (and money) out. A member of the recycle crew of Barangay Barangka Itaas at work.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Barangay turns...

From page A24

Ocampo said in Filipino.

Also, he added, "You need to have the will to implement the law because people will get mad at you for being too strict."

Violators of the law, in normal cases, are either fined or imprisoned. But in Barangka Itaas, officials are more creative.

A violators is given the choice of becoming a garbage marshal for three to four hours a day until he has fully served a penalty of 78 hours of community service.

As a marshal, he has to watch over the drop zones and make sure that no one violates the segregation program.

The success of Barangka Itaas's waste management program has resulted in a scholarship program where residents are sent to college, high school or elementary school.

That program is funded by 70 percent of the earnings from the sale of fertilizers and recycled solid waste like bottles, plastics and aluminum.

Barangay scholars get funds for their full tuition, books and a P50-daily allowance. Barangka Itaas currently has 27 scholars who are all residents of the barangay.

The remaining 40 percent of the program's earnings pay for the 12-member recycle crew.

This crew collects and sorts from the drop zones plastic, aluminum cans and bottles every night. They are also in charge of selling these "thrash" to junkshops the next day.

For its triumph, Barangka Itaas has become a model facility and demo site for various barangays and non-government organizations like the Mother Earth Foundation.

Officials and residents are proud of another feat.

When they started the program, their 14,000 population needed three dump trucks to collect their garbage. Now, their 17,000 population only uses one and a half trucks.

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Volunteers celebrate in Manila

By Blanche S. Rivera

SOME were seminarians, some government employees, some foreigners, some from the provinces but all were volunteers from 37 organizations that converged in Manila yesterday to celebrate International Volunteers Day.

The affair, dubbed "Discover. Act. Volunteer!" hailed Filipino volunteers here and abroad, where they serve even in high-risk countries for various United Nations missions.

"The Philippines makes a great commitment to volunteerism. Currently, volunteers from the Philippines serve around the world," UN resident coordinator Deborah Landey said in a statement yesterday.

Data from the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) showed that around 100 Filipino professionals give up their jobs every year to go on volunteer missions for the United Nations.

Tess Bahon, a senior volunteer service officer, said local volunteers, most of whom serve in local governments, receive only around P2,000 as monthly allowance.

"These are people who have a college education but who wish to help their communities," Bahon said in an interview at the Clamshell 2 in Intramuros where the fair was held.

Local volunteers used to be "contracted" for two years, but the length of service now has been shortened to six months to a year.

Volunteers who are sent on exchange missions to other countries need three years of experience in their respective fields to qualify as volunteers.

"They are the ones who can get a higher, or at least similar pay here but who choose to use their specialization in areas that need them most," PNVSCA volunteer service officer Efren Antiporda said.

The Filipino volunteers are usually sent on humanitarian missions sanctioned by the United Nations to promote relief and rehabilitation, democratization and peacekeeping.

METROBRIEFS

Rob suspect falls

ONE OF the four suspects in a bank robbery along Shaw Boulevard last week was arrested by the police Saturday night. Nestor Macabenta was collared while walking on a street in Marikina City. Macabenta, with three others, allegedly robbed East West Bank at 11:30 a.m. Friday. The group took off with a still undetermined amount of money in two motorcycles. Macabenta was initially identified through the rogues gallery presented to the teller and clients, said Senior Supt. Raul Medina. *Ruth L.Navarra*

Cop in trouble

FELLOW policemen arrested PO3 Bernardo Magtibay Jr., of MBA Diego Silang Village, Barangay Ususan, Taguig, for allegedly shooting at a traffic enforcer in Parañaque City. He faces charges of indiscriminate firing, alarm and scandal, and grave threat. Magtibay's two companions Kenneth Salanda, 37, of Parañaque City, and Rolly Sinco, 37, of Novaliches City, were also arrested. Police said the suspects were leaving Batangas Eatery on Quirino Avenue at about 7 a.m. when traffic enforcer Renaldo Galang tried to apprehend Magtibay for disregarding a traffic sign. Magtibay allegedly pulled out a .9-mm pistol and opened fire at the enforcer before speeding away. Galang was unhurt. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

ASAP conference

THE AMERICAN Studies Association of the Philippines shall hold its annual conference and general assembly on Dec. 11 at the University of the East Conference Hall, fourth floor, Dalupan Building, in Sampaloc, Manila. The conference, which has for its theme "Religious Convergences, ASAP 2004," hopes to explore interdisciplinary convergences between religion and related disciplines by revisiting the contributions of various religious organizations to religious education in the Philippines. For inquiries, call Jenny or Aileen at 735-8539, 0927-3323029 and 0917-8222241.

IP educators meet

AN INDIGENOUS people's (IP) educators' conference will be held in UP Diliman on Dec. 9 to 10. This will feature three events: an IP educators' forum titled "Developing a Culturally Appropriate Education System for Filipino Indigenous Peoples Toward Sustainable Development," a march for IP rights and a concert. The forum will be held at the University Hotel on Dec. 9 to 10. The march will coincide with Human Rights Day on Dec. 10 and the concert will start at 6 p.m. For more information, call Erwin or Liza at 02-4356899.

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Barangay turns garbage into gold

By Ruth L. Navarra

FOR AN average household, waste management ends when wet thrash is segregated from the dry ones.

Average, however, does not apply to residents of Barangay Barangka Itaas in Mandaluyong City.

In this barangay, waste segregation is not only a day to day affair but a commitment to the community.

Through the leadership of barangay chair Danilo Ocampo, Barangka Itaas has succeeded in recycling the community's solid and wet garbage.

And what's best is that the barangay has turned an ugly and dirty affair into a real money-making venture.

The centerpiece of this waste management operation are two composting machines that produce organic fertilizer out of leftover food.

Each machine can process from 500 kilos to a ton of leftovers that otherwise could have ended rotting in a dump or clogging the drain.

Out of 6,000 kilos of leftover food comes 2,000 kilos of fertilizer.

The machines, donated by the city government, operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week on a 29sqm lot near the Pasig River.

Ocampo said Baguio farmers liked their fertilizer so much that the tillers would pay for them in advance to ensure the goods go to them. And for good reason.

The barangay chair said they had developed their fertilizer specifically for orchids, vegetables and fruits, resulting in better yield.

But what about the smell? Don't the composting area's neighbors complain?

Residents who live near the site say that they only smell a faint beer-like scent in the first two to three days of processing.

Ocampo said the secret was with an enzyme that they put in the garbage.

When they started the project in 1998, the barangay had to import the enzyme to remove the bad smell from the leftover food.

However, using the knowledge he acquired from working for seven years at a solid waste management company in Southern California, Ocampo has formulated his own enzyme which is now used at the composting center.

Republic Act 9003 requires barangays all over the country to have a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) for its refuse.

In accordance with that law, Barangka Itaas strategically placed 17 drop zones for segregated waste generated in their community. Residents could only throw their garbage from 5 p.m. to 12 midnight.

To make sure people complied, the barangay hired a town crier who goes around the barangay twice a day to remind residents that there is a law that required them to segregate their garbage.

"People need constant reminding because they tend to forget,"

BARANGAY/ A23

Mandaluyong presses drive vs smoking

By Ruth L. Navarra

MANDALUYONG City has stepped up moves to show that it is not merely blowing smoke in its antismoking campaign.

The city government has given the owners of 12 night spots on Shaw Boulevard five days to comply with Ordinance No. 279 S-2004, which prohibits smoking in enclosed offices, in all government and public buildings, schools, hospitals and medical clinics, and all forms of public transportation.

Antismoking task force chief Robertino Fortes reportedly found the nightspots in violation of the ordinance during an inspection.

Club owners have to comply within the allotted time or face closure.

During the inspection, task force members apprehended seven violators.

Violators will have to pay a fine of P1,000 P2,000 and P3,000 for the first, second and third offense, respectively.

Third-time offenders will also have to spend three to five days in jail.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, December 6, 2004
2nd Week of Advent

1st Reading: Is 35:1-10
Gospel: Lk 5:17-26

One day Jesus was teaching and many Pharisees and teachers of the Law had come from every part of Galilee and Judea and even from Jerusalem. They were sitting there while the power of the Lord was at work to heal the sick. Then some men brought a paralyzed man who lay on his mat. They tried to enter the house to place him before Jesus, but they couldn't find a way through the crowd. So they went up on the roof and, removing the tiles, they lowered him on his mat into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "My friend, your sins are forgiven." At once the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to wonder, "This man insults God! Who can forgive sins but only God?"

But Jesus knew their thoughts and asked them, "Why are you reacting like this? Which is easier to say: 'Your sins are forgiven,' or: 'Get up and walk?' Now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." And Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." At once the man stood before them. He took up the mat he had been lying on and went home praising God.

Amazement seized the people and they praised God. They were filled with a holy fear and said, "What wonderful things we have seen today!"

Commentary

The Pharisees and teachers of the Law were "sitting there," the account says; and the paralyzed man was lying on his mat. They were as paralyzed as he: they in their "seat of learning," he in his bed of pain. Jesus said to him, "Get up!" and he got up and walked. But by the end of the story the Pharisees and teachers of the Law are still seated. Their religion wasn't such as to enable, or even to allow, anyone to get up and move. The effect of religious teaching, all too often, is to keep people seated—not only that, but seated in judgment. The effect of real religion is to give us "the mind of Christ" (1Cor 2:16): his life's work, he said, was "to bring good news to the poor... to proclaim release to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free..." (Lk 4:18).

A Christian who went to study zen in Japan met a zen master who asked her what was moving in her spiritual life. "I dwell a lot recently on the idea of the Kingdom of God," she replied. Instantly he said, "Show me the Kingdom of God!" You get nowhere by telling a zen master about your ideas (see Jan. 8). That woman became a zen master herself eventually, and she spends much of her time and energy in prison ministry—setting captives inwardly free. That work shows the Kingdom of God.

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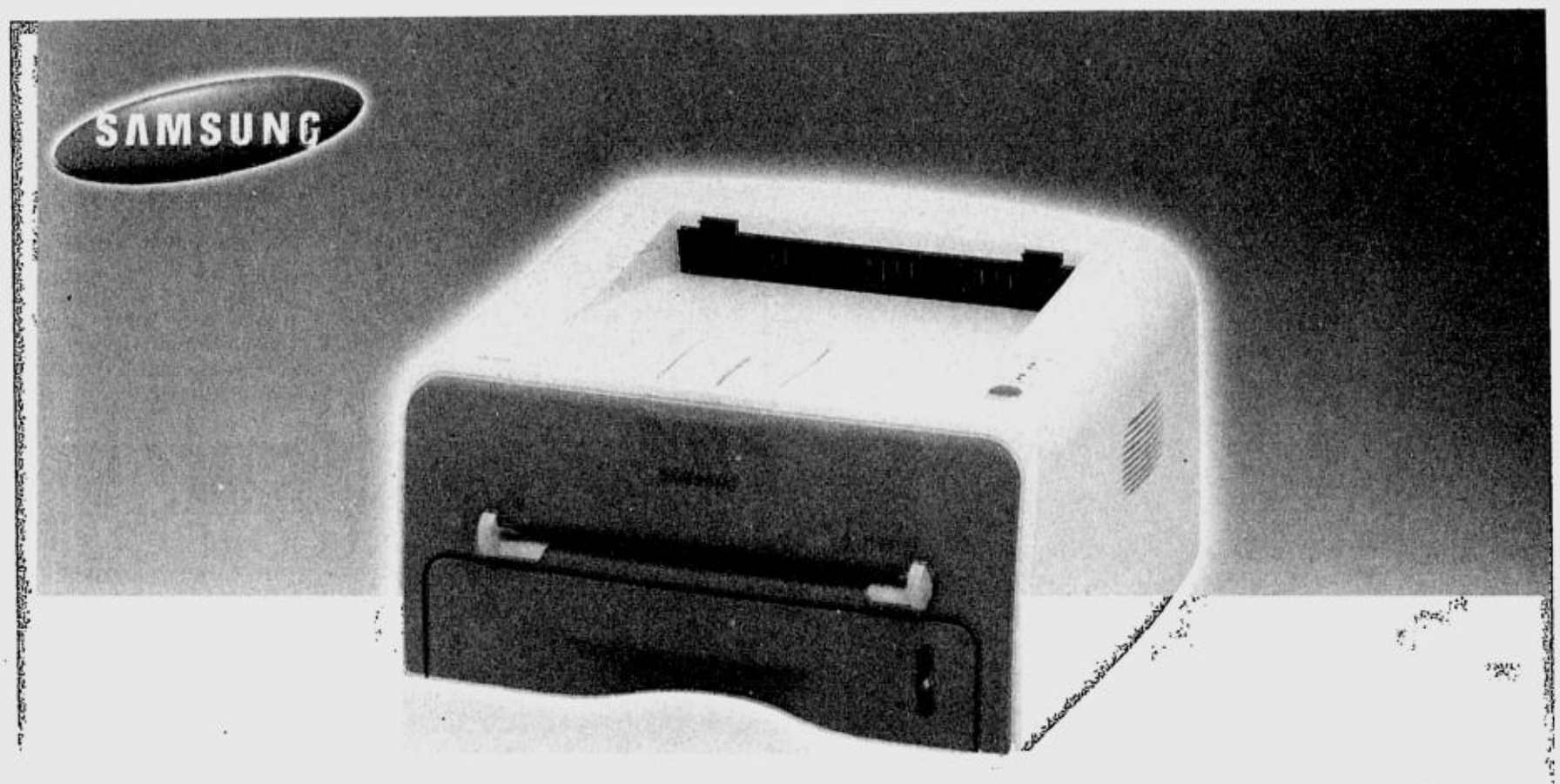

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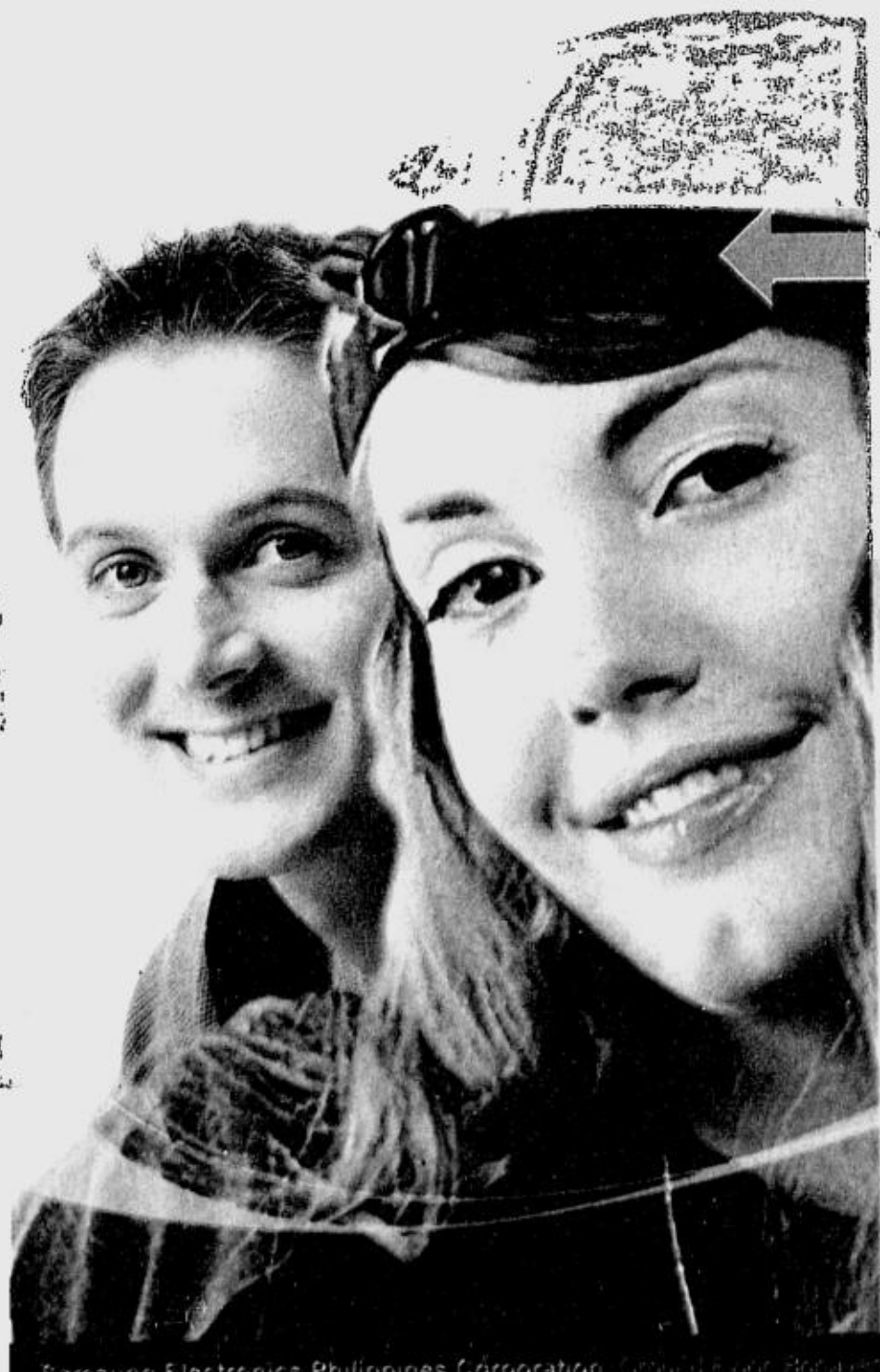

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SPORTS

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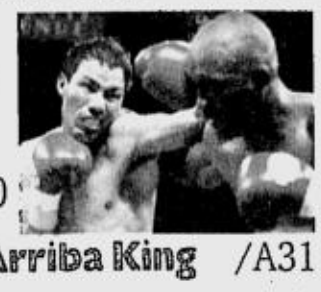
■ Sy, Marave gain AF3 podium /A28

■ Cavs, James soar high /A30

■ Castillo labors to keep crown A30



■ Easy does it for Arriba King /A31

Coca-Cola halts slide, thrashes Phone Pals

COCA-COLA playmaker Johnny Abarrientos drives down the lane as he tries to break down the Talk 'N Text defense in the game last night at the Araneta Coliseum.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

GAME TUESDAY
(*Subic*)
6 p.m.—FedEx vs. Alaska
GAMES WEDNESDAY
(*PhilSports Arena*)
4:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs San Miguel Beer
7:20 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Red Bull Barako

By June Navarro

LEO AVENIDO picked the right time to come up big for his team.

Ranged against the toughest squad thus far, the former Far Eastern University star helped fire up the Coca-Cola Tigers, who finally broke out of a slump with a 93-81 victory over the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Avenido joined hands with Poch Juinio in a Coke uprising in the first half as Coca-Cola snapped out of a four-game slide in the tournament.

Juinio banged in 11 of his 16 points in the first quarter and Avenido added 11 of his 17 before the half in a Coca-Cola rally that put the the Tigers ahead, 49-40, and set the stage for their conquest of the league-leading Phone Pals.

By notching only their second victory in eight games, the Tigers improved to 6-9 while avoiding the ignominy of losing five games in a row for the first time in franchise history.

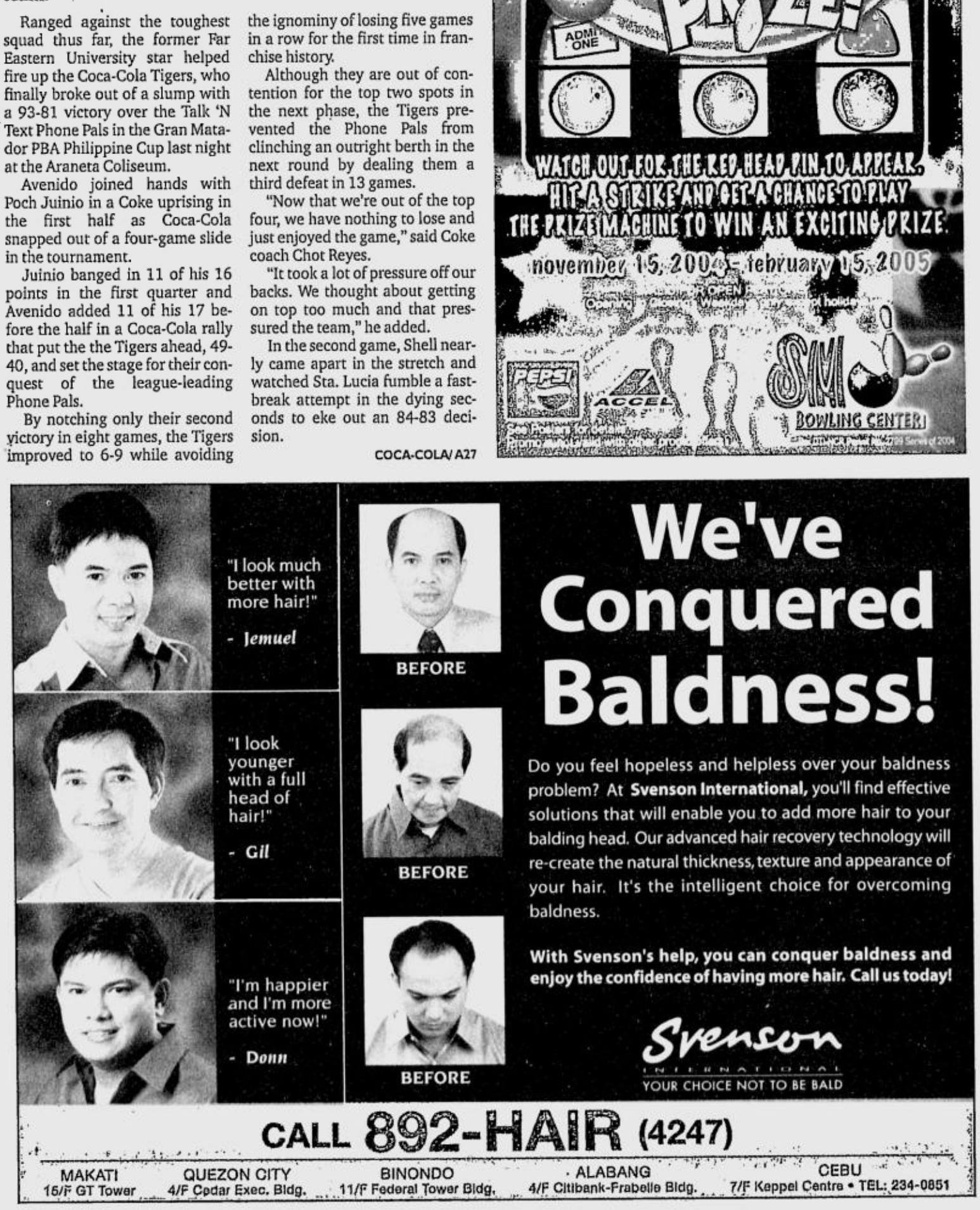
Although they are out of contention for the top two spots in the next phase, the Tigers prevented the Phone Pals from clinching an outright berth in the next round by dealing them a third defeat in 13 games.

"Now that we're out of the top four, we have nothing to lose and just enjoyed the game," said Coke coach Chot Reyes.

"It took a lot of pressure off our backs. We thought about getting on top too much and that pressured the team," he added.

In the second game, Shell nearly came apart in the stretch and watched Sta. Lucia fumble a fastbreak attempt in the dying seconds to eke out an 84-83 decision.

COCA-COLA/ A27



In an in industry full of self-proclaimed leaders in technology,
how can a company make a difference?

RYAN UMPOI MINDANAO BUREAU

PACQUIAO listens to Roach during training in Davao.

Thai Fahsan goes when Manny decides it's time

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

IT'S UP to Manny.

This was the response of American trainer Freddie Roach yesterday when asked how long he expects Fahsan 3K Battery to last in his Dec. 11 showdown against Ring Magazine featherweight king Manny Pacquiao in a fight card titled "Yanig sa Taguig" at The Fort.

Roach spoke of Pacquiao's "great shape" in an interview with Viva Sports' Ronnie Nathanielsz after a pre-fight special on the popular boxing show "The Main Event" on RPN 9 that showed Fahsan kissing the canvas in a fight with veteran journeyman Joebar Damosmog before knocking out the Filipino southpaw in the sixth round.

Roach and Pacquiao, together with personal trainer Buboy Fernandez, arrived from Davao yesterday at 9 a.m. to fulfill pre-fight appearances.

Roach, who personally put the Filipino ring hero to two weeks of intensive training in Davao City, said Pacquiao was "ready to go to work in this fight" although Roach has cautioned Pacquiao and fight fans "not to take Fahsan lightly.

Roach said Fahsan "is a tough Thai fighter, durable and who has trained hard for two months."

Roach reminded Pacquiao that Fahsan "is sure to fight his best fight against him because this is an opportunity of a lifetime."

Roach said Pacquiao had sparred eight tough rounds on Friday in Davao and would taper off with three more rounds of sparring at the Wild Card Gym in BF Homes at 1 p.m. today after roadwork in the morning. Roach said Pacquiao is hovering around 127 lb, a pound over the featherweight limit.

Fahsan and Chaiyong Distar, the opponent of Philippine and Orient Pacific Boxing Federation No. 1 super flyweight Z "The Dream" Gorres, along with manager Jimmy Chaichotchuang, are scheduled to arrive from Bangkok this evening in time for the press-public preview at the Wild Card Gym tomorrow.

The Thai, known as "Destroyer of Filipinos" with over 20 victims, has been assured of a featherweight rating by international promoter Murad Muhammad.

Saturday's showdown has been sanctioned by the International Boxing Federation as an eliminator, with the winner moving up to No. 2 behind WBA/IBF champion Juan Manuel Marquez.

Meantime, Roach and Muhammad appealed to Filipino boxing fans to come out in full force and support Pacquiao whom the trainer described as "one of the most exciting fighters in the world and the best featherweight today."

Roach predicted that by the end of 2005 Pacquiao would have beaten Marquez, Erik Morales and Marco Antonio Barrera to become the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

A cry for reforms, a call to action

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

HOW could one who has no conscience, like Go Teng Kok, agree to give the BAP a conscience?

This was among the messages that reached us after we printed last time statements of Go, head of national athletics and chess associations.

Another question wondered if I too have allowed myself to be included in the GTK payroll.

As the displeased responses would show, not everybody loves Go Teng Kok.

There was also this suggestion that GTK does pay his admirers, including some members of the media.

Of course, the scathing calls were not directed at Go, but specifically to the secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, Graham Lim, a GTK protégé who created a national uproar after he allowed the national flag to be trampled on and kicked around like garbage in the recent Fiba-Stankovic Cup in Taipei.

***

GTK had called to say he told Lim not to send a hopeless scrub squad identified as the RP national team to the Taipei series.

Well, the damage, result of a shameful slaughter, has been done.

Then next came a clamor for the ouster of the irresponsible BAP sec gen.

Yesterday, a group of concerned sports people handed to us a manifesto that they wanted to print in a national paper.

The signatories, including key figures in the so-called basketball super body, have offered to pay for the publication of a full-page advertisement.

Your reporter here has instead offered to run the contents of the anti-Lim manifesto, on the condition that money intended for its publication would be donated to the Church fund for flood victims being raised by Monsignor Gaudencio Rosales, the Archbishop of Manila who had nearly lost his life fighting illegal loggers in Mindanao.

The manifesto is titled "A cry for reforms, a call to action."

Here it is:

***

Filipinos had always taken pride in their basketball teams as being among Asia's best.

The names of legendary national players—Mumar, Loyzaga, Bernardo, Ocampo, Jaworski, Caidic, and many more who had donned the national uniform with distinction—flowed from the lips of fans.

Although that legendary era is long gone, the dream of every Filipino to once again see our national flag fly high in the realm of Asian basketball competitions remains.

Unfortunately, there is lack of coherence on the part of the current leadership of the Fiba-recognized BAP, headed by an absent, ailing president and whose board was composed of directors hand-picked by these officers, with everything orchestrated by an influence-peddling non-Filipino, whose passport had been canceled by the Justice department yet who continues to travel freely.

There has been a clear desecration of democracy that our great national heroes, from Rizal and Bonifacio down to Ninoy Aquino, had died for.

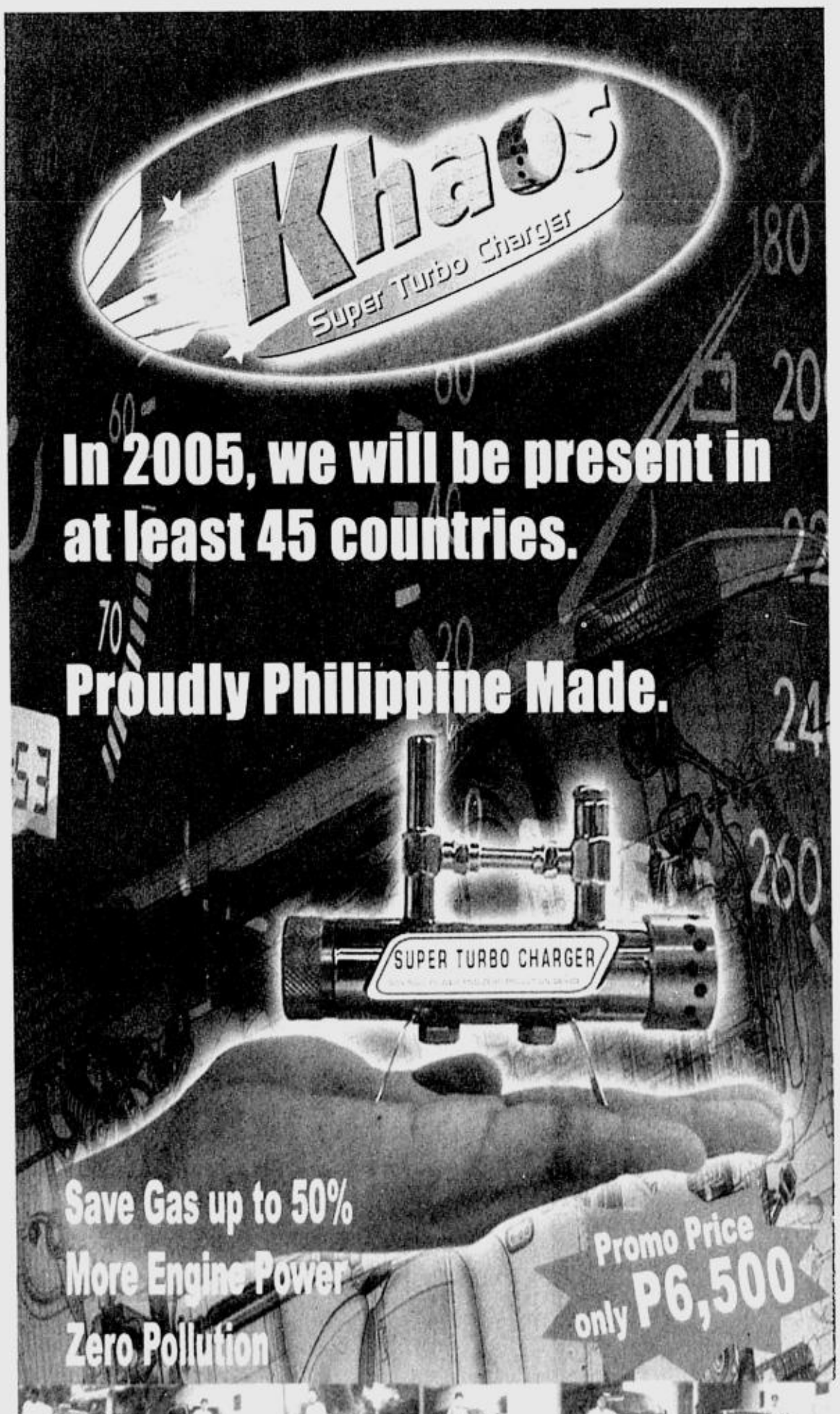
If sports is indeed a microcosm of national life, it's no surprise that our fall to the pits in the game which most Filipinos hold dear to their hearts is now becoming a reflection of our country's overall descent.

If we could not get our act together in something as important to our spirits as the proper leadership and composition of the national sports association of the game we feel most passionate about, then there is no way we could go forward and tackle the greater issues at hand—that of national unity and recovery.

The recent desecration of the Philippine flag before an international audience in Taipei is the final insult which gave us no recourse but rally our people and call for changes and reforms in the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

We also beseech the Philippine Olympic Committee and the international basketball groups, mainly the Fiba, to recognize this urgent national outcry and cause the formation of a new responsible national sports association to handle the affairs of basketball in the Philippines.

Please help restore our national game to its rightful adherents and administrators.



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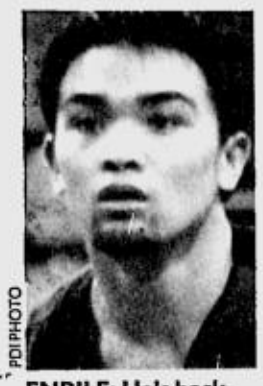

PDI PHOTO

ENRILE: He's back

Gunner Enrile ends slump

By Jasmine W. Payo

RONJAY Enrile's shooting touch seemed to have deserted him in the PBL Open Championship.

The Toyota Otis-Letran top guard, who used to take bold shots anywhere on the floor, surprisingly delivered woeful performances early in the series.

Enrile averaged a measly 6.3 points and shot 4-for-16 beyond the arc in his first eight games. Despite the poor shooting, however, the 22-year-old veteran never lost his focus.

Last Tuesday, Enrile appeared to have regained top form when he scored a team-high 15 points in the Knights' 85-61 win over ICTSI-La Salle.

"At least I was able to recover from my slump," said Enrile after being named as the Player of the Week by the PBL Press Corps.

Knights coach Louie Alas had never lost hope on his main man. "I know him well and I have strong faith in him," Alas said. "He's still one of the league's finest players."

Enrile now aims to put an end to the Knights' erratic form. Toyota Otis-Letran remained fifth with a 4-5 slate, half a game behind Welcoat Paints.

"My main mission now is for the team to make it to the No. 3 or 4 slot, just in case we don't get the top two automatic slots in the semifinals," he said.

Coca-Cola halts . . .

From page A25

Tony dela Cruz stepped into an ill-advised pass by Mac Cuan in transition as Shell held on for its 10th win in 15 games that put the Turbochargers at solo second.

Sta. Lucia dropped to 4-9.

The Scores:

First Game:

COCA-COLA

93—Avenido 17, Juinio 16, Reavis 16, Morano 15, Peek 8, Arigo 8, Abarrientos 6, Wainwright 5, Lao 2, Antonio 0.

TALK 'N TEXT

81—Telan 16, Miller 15, Belano 14, De Ocampo 14, Pablo 8, Alapag 7, Fran 3, Ravena 2, Camaso 2, Gelig 0, Salangsang 0.

Quarters: 26-16, 49-40, 71-55, 93-81.

Second Game

SHELL 84—Dela Cruz 27, Alvarez 16, Tubid 11, Ferreria 7, Cruz 7, Mamaril 6, Sta. Maria 4, Calaguio 4, Sotto 2, Legaspi 0, Bajar 0, Jackson 0.

STA. LUCIA

83—Aquino 23, Duremdes 18, Espino 17, Francisco 7, Gumatay 6, Gonzales 6, Locsin 4, Mendoza 2, Cuan 0, Omolon 0, Santos 0.

Quarters: 23-19, 35-38, 66-56, 84-83.

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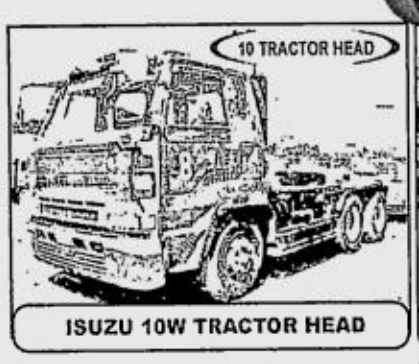
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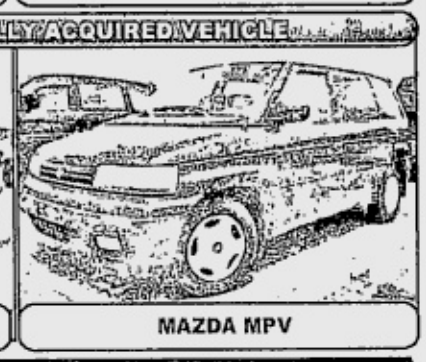
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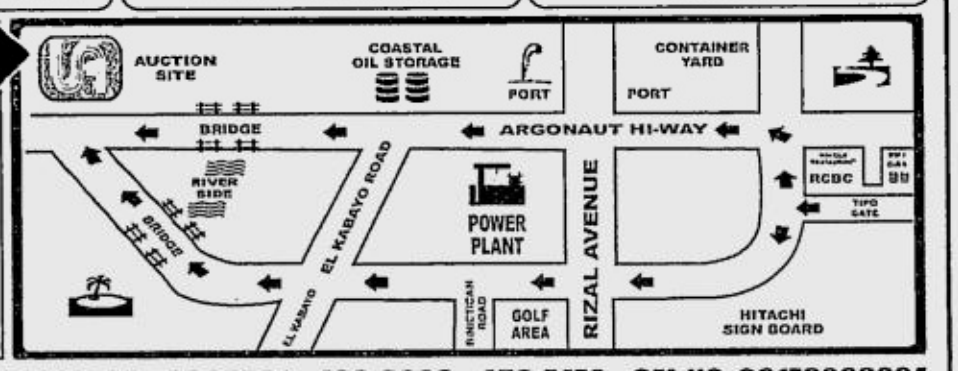

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   3rd monthly draw: December 7, 2004.
   Grand draw: January 6, 2005.
8. Each monthly winner will get a gamefowl Power Trio plus Thunderbird gift packs, while the grand draw winners will each get a Gamefowl Power Trio plus a Breeder's Showcase.
9. Winners can choose their Power Trio from the following bloodlines: Sweater, Roundhead, Kelso and Hatch.
10. The winners' store partner will get P10,000.00 worth of Thunderbird products in the monthly draw, and in the grand draw, can get P20,000.00 worth of Thunderbird products.
11. Winners will be called and/or notified via mail.
12. Promo starts September 1, 2004 and ends December 31, 2004.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1030 series of 2004

Innovating Technology

The answer is to do more than what others do.
Why not embrace the possibilities, anticipate the future and harness the world's potential to innovate.

Lady Legends outclass FEU volleybelles

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission Lady Legends went through another obstacle with nary a scare yesterday, pummeling a severely outsized Far Eastern side in straight sets, 25-13, 25-23, 25-21, in the Shakey's V-League eliminations.

The Legends won for the third straight time and kept their hold of the solo lead after just one week of the tournament they joined "just for fun and to inspire."

Attackers Rosemarie Prochina and Theresa Dela Rosa shared game-high honors with 11 points each as the Lady Legends, dominating with brute force, drove the Lady Tamaraws to their second loss in as many games after a 90-minute battle.

Made up of the core of the country's last gold medal-winning team in the Southeast Asian Games, PSC gets its first acid test tomorrow when it clashes with defending champion Santo Tomas at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Tigresses stayed in second place after zooming to their second consecutive win with a 25-17, 25-16, 25-20 rout of Letran.

Roxanne Pimentel, reinforcing UST, again came up with a sparkling performance of 20 points for the Tigresses, 14 of them coming from outright winners.

The Lady Knights remained in solo third spot despite losing for the first time in two outings. La Salle, Lyceum and San Sebastian are all winless.

The Legends have dropped only one set so far in the tournament despite being far from peak form with just one month to prepare.

"My players are starting to get the feel of the competition," said coach Tatz Suzara. "We did not think that we would be winning this many games this early. But now that we are, it's my job to make sure that we keep winning."

So lopsided was the PSC win that Far Eastern coach Florentino Santos did not leave his seat in the third set, letting his deputies do the coaching.

Ailyn Ege led the Lady Tams with nine points and Genelyn Alemania chipped in with eight.

TCL's Espiritu sprints to Criterium race victory

VIGAN—Team TCL's Victor Espiritu put on a dazzling show of sprinting prowess and ruled the inaugural staging of the Cycling Search Invitational Criterium Race over Team Pagcor's Lloyd Reynante and teammate Merculio Ramos.

Espiritu, the 1996 Marlboro Tour champion, took all but six of the 15 laps of the third and final leg contested on the narrow streets around the provincial capitol here, including the final sprint worth 10 points.

He also ruled three intermediate sprints and came away with a whopping 34 points for a total of 52.

That was 16 points up on Reynante, who was tied with Ramos at the start of the day. Reynante wound up with 13 points and an overall total of 36 for second while Ramos struggled for seven points and finished with 30 for third in the event sponsored by Pagcor-Casino Filipino and organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp.

Team TCL also ran away with the team crown worth P15,000 while Team Pagcor settled for the P10,000 second prize. Team Jazy took third place worth P5,000.

David Perez rode from as low as 13th place to snatch the elite category crown.

THE PHILIPPINES' Tyson Sy (left) celebrates on the podiu

Sy, Mar... podiu...

ROSARIO, Batangas—Tyson Sy and Pepon Marave took full advantage of a mishap early in the afternoon race that boosted Filipinos to a podium finish in the final leg of the Addict Mobile Asian Formula 3 Super Prix Series yesterday at the Batangas Racing Circuit (BRC) here.

Series leaders John O'Hara of Ireland and Christian Jones of Australia got entangled in the fourth lap and the mishap knocked them out of the race.

Indonesia's Ananda Mikola went on to win with a top time of 25 minutes and 48.6 seconds followed by Sy (25:56.5) and Marave (26:06.6).

It was the first time Asians dominated a leg in this series sponsored by PLDT MyDSL, Top Gear,

Manotoc back

BAGUIO CITY—All eyes will be on Tommy Manotoc when the 55th Fil-Am International Amateur Golf Tournament resumes with the regular men's tournament today at the Baguio Country Club and Camp John Hay courses.

Manotoc, the winningest individual champion here with eight titles in a tie with the legendary Golem Silverio, will return to the tournament as leader of the Nike Golf Team which... romp with ... san.

A former ... now head ... developmen... vowed to n... pute with t...

This time ... the NGT squ...

Of boxin...

IN MY opinion, this Saturday's fight between Manny Pacquiao and Fahsan 3K Battery is one-sided because the Filipino fighter is simply too awesome and too experienced for the undistinguished boxer from Thailand.

But I'm not alone in saying that the bout smells of a mismatch from the beginning. I'm saying that only a few of us have branded this fight one-sided and far too many of them, including majority of media members who are apologists for boxing, could have asked the promoters to provide a worthier opponent (instead of the obscure Fahsan) against the battle-tested Pacquiao.

Worse, Fahsan's manager, a certain Jimmy Chaichotchaung, is reportedly the same guy who brought here last October a Thai patsy named Samingkao Chutipol, who was banned for two years by the Games and Amusements Board for hitting the canvas even without receiving a punch in his match against former World Boxing Council super flyweight champion Gerry Peñalosa. The GAB also suspended the two matchmakers of that farcical fight in Mandaue City, but oddly, slapped only a mere warning on the promoter despite the incontrovertible evidence that the public was deceived by the gross mismatch, a rip-off of sort.

The GAB should not treat erring pro-

CLEAN LIVING

Manol... Iñigo

moters ligh... sponsibility ... not clearly ... ing rules, t... fans that ... Saturday's. ... tributes to ... terest in pr...

Incident... mer WBC ... endorseme... know Salu... wasn't bef... was quote... (American ... Nazario an... mended f... fight.

I beg to ... and the b... mismatch ... did Salud, ...

Lim lifts San Lore...

GAMES TODAY (*Pasay Sports Complex*)
9 a.m.—CCM vs EAC (A)
10:30 a.m.—La Salle-Manila vs St. Francis (A)
12 nn—PUP vs Olivarez (A)
1:30 p.m.—La Salle-Dasma vs La Salle-Manila (women)
3 p.m.—La Salle-Dasmariñas vs PATTS (B)

THE COLEGIO de San Lorenzo Griffins displayed outstanding defense in a 74-63 demolition of Olivarez College yesterday in the 12th Nation... ciation (N... ment at the ... Jeffrey L... and third q... share of se... Manila and ... Polytechn... earlier prev... women's d...

With your help, this family can spend Christmas in their own home

Make this Christmas more meaningful for a less fortunate family by being part of **Building on Faith with Families**, a project of Habitat for Humanity Philippines which has already provided homes for more than 10,000 families around the country.

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You too can make a difference by volunteering or making a donation that will help us build houses and give self-respect for families in need of decent shelter.

Join us build houses at BASECO, Port Area, Manila from December 6 -11, 2004.

For information on how to join the BASECO build, please call 897-3069 or email us at hfhphil@yahoo.com.
You may also donate directly to ***BPI C/A # 2421-0014-67***

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rm 3 Series

n with promotions class winner Oliver Turvey of Britain (center) and Moreno Soerappo of Indonesia.

ave gain AF3 m in final leg

ohama, Denso, NU 107 and Manila Bulletin.
v's previous best was third place, which he eved in the second leg of the AF3 in Subic last .

ith his finish, the 17-year-old Sy topped the 4 AF3 championship in the promotional class, ision he dominated this season.

Hara was looking to get an inside track on s in the fourth lap when his car clipped the ralian's rear instead. The collision forced s's Dallara F301 to spin to its left and hit ra, forcing the two drivers to ram against the .

Hara and Jones emerged unscathed but they dn't get back in the race.

t's a very exciting year for me. I've learned a nd I look forward to next year," said Sy.

larave, who won the championship in last year's edition of the AF3, struggled in the first leg held earlier this year also here at the BRC.

His third-place finish yesterday was his highest in any of the AF3 rounds this year. He placed fifth in the China and Indonesia stops and ranked only as high as fourth overall.

"I started with a lot of bad luck," said Marave. "It's just now that I'm beginning to get a feel of my car," added Marave, who drives for Shell Kinetic F3.

In the morning race yesterday, O'Hara and Jones finished in the top two for the sixth time in 10 races this season.

O'Hara, Marave's teammate at Shell Kinetic F3, timed 25 minutes and 8.8 seconds followed by Jones in 25 minutes and 19.6 seconds.

Mikola placed third in the morning race.

In the same race, Oliver Turvey of Britain finished first in the promotions class.

Underdogs Cebu, Davao forge U-19 title clash

IT'S ALL over for hot favorites National Capital Region and Iloilo in the PFF-adidas U-19 Championship in Cebu City.

Davao pulled off a stunning semifinal upset of NCR with a 4-3 penalty shoot-out victory after the two teams had battled to a 2-2 draw in regulation and extra time.

And host Cebu completed the day's twin giant-killing act by tripping Iloilo, the reigning champion, 1-0, in extra time to arrange a title showdown with Davao today.

The duel for the top prize between Davao and the hosts is set at 2 p.m. at the University of San Carlos pitch in Talamban. The game for third place between NCR and Iloilo kicks off at 9 a.m.

Davao and Cebu, represented by Cebu Football Association Mayotzki, fought to a 1-1 draw in the eliminations.

NCR blows hot, cold

NCR cooled off after a sizzling start and failed to reach the finals for the second straight year when it missed twice in the shoot-out.

Mark Lusong and Ahmed Tahil gave NCR an early 2-0 lead, but Davao fought back to equalize before the break with goals from Napoleon Nidea and Andy Estimo.

After 20 minutes of extension following a fiercely and evenly fought second-half, NCR eventually choked.

Claiming credit for clinching Davao's win was goalie Aries Bartos, who saved NCR's last attempt to extend the shoot-out into another round.

Cebuano football pride exploded throughout the city earlier after the hosts eliminated the reigning champions with a goal by Ronald Mahilum, 12 minutes into extra time, from a corner by Martin Bontia.

Psychological advantage

In a match where both squads looked physically, technically and tactically even on the pitch, the psychological advantage of playing in front of a home crowd helped the Cebuanos pull through.

Jonathan Maximo, Cebu Football Association president, was ecstatic with both semifinal results. He noted that football, no matter who triumphs in the finals today, is the winner in this edition of the adidas tourney.

However, the finalists have threatened not to play if host and organizer Cebu FA fails to come up with precautionary security measures and a medical team. *With a report from Marian Baring, Correspondent/Cebu Daily News*

Initiating Trends

for powerhouse Nike golf team

is going for a two-division title lineup headed by Juvic Pagun-

national team mainstay and a group working to boost the t of the sport, Manotoc had ver play here again after a dis- rnament officials in 2001. Tommy returns as skipper of id in the Am Division also made up of his son, Matthew, Ronnie Torrecampo, Dave Hernandez and Abe Rosal.

With Pagunsan in NGT's Fil Division team are fellow Canlubang aces Jun Bernis, Jay Bayron, Boyet Saragoza and JT Tanpingco.

The two Nike squads are the top seeds on paper with identical zero handicaps.

Manila Southwoods, Mizuno-DHL, PAL Interclub champion Del Monte and Royal Caribbean are expected to give NGT tough opposition in the centerpiece divisions of this tournament acknowledged as the biggest and older international golf tournament in the world.

Royal Caribbean has a team handicap of 0.43 in the Fil Division followed by defending champion Mizuno-DHL with 0.457, Manila Southwoods with 0.933 and Del Monte with 1. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

MANOTOC

g mismatches

R.

ly. While it is true that the re- of promoters for mismatches is pelled out in the present box- e GAB should step in to assure ery promotion, including this is well-balanced and con- he enhancement of public in- fessional boxing.

lly, I must take issue with for- cretary general Rudy Salud's t of Saturday's promotion. I fairly well, and I can't say I idled by his statement—if he correctly—that the promoters Murad Muhammad, Rod M&M Sports) should be com- staging the Pacquiao-Fahsan

isagree. Based purely on form ers' record, the fight screams om the beginning. Then why whom many boxing fans look up to for guidance, endorse the promotion?

And Murad Muhammad? There will always be with us too many of his kind; promoters who continue to thrive in professional boxing in spite of a dark past. Recall that in 1983, Murad Muhammad co-promoted (with a certain Robert Andreoli) one of the most glaring examples of a boxing mismatch. In that card held in Las Vegas, the promoters pitted heavyweight champion Larry Holmes against inexperienced challenger Marvis Frazier in a championship fight that was sanctioned by the fledgling International Boxing Federation (at the last minute) but not by the more prestigious World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association.

Reporting on that one-sided fight, veteran American sports journalist Howard Cosell wrote: "Holmes promptly disposed of young Marvis Frazier, son of former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier, in the first round with a potentially lethal right-hand punch. Young Frazier was simply too small to offer Holmes much of a challenge."

If memory serves, Frazier's sorry loss was one of the compelling reasons why Cosell ended his romance with pro boxing after almost 25 years of covering the fight scene for the US television network ABC. "I've had it," he said.

Palos Verdes golfers return from brink to win Sta. Lucia Tour

RANCHO Palos Verdes of Davao did the improbable over the weekend, rallying from way behind two highly fancied contingents to snatch the overall team title in the 5th Sta. Lucia Golf Tour which came to a dramatic close at two venues.

The Palos Verdes golfers overcame a seven-point deficit to overhaul leader Alta Vista of Cebu in the third and final leg of the event and bag its first ever overall crown in the unique series among seven golf clubs flying the banner of the giant real estate firm.

A big victory by its Team 6 quartet of Ronald Galicia, Jing Tan, Jong Tan and TJ Brodeth that highlighted Palos Verdes' three-leg sweep in the division and a fighting runner-up finish in Group I by Tibor Marcelino, Monchit Mackay, Anthony Sasin and Boy Tan capped Palos Verdes' breakthrough win.

Palos Verdes netted an overall score of 121 points followed by Alta Vista with 116 and last year's champion Eagle Ridge with 115.

Helping the Palos Verdes drive was a surprise victory by Royale Tagaytay 3 in Group II which shut the door on Alta Vista.

Members of the Palos Verdes team erupted in wild celebration when their triumph was confirmed during the awarding ceremonies held at the Orchard Ballroom in Cavite.

"We were not expecting it, but we knew we could overcome seven points heading into the final leg," said Palos frontliner Joe Marfori.

The Tour's executive committee members, Vicente Santos and engineer Wini Gob, said it was such a perfect ending to a final leg that almost got canceled due to the threat of bad weather brought by Typhoon "Yoyong."

Globe Platinum served as the major sponsor of the Sta. Lucia Tour's fifth season. The other backers were Samsung, Omega, Titleist, Footjoy, Cobra as hole-in-one sponsors as well as Pagcor, Cebu Pacific, Unirock, Readycon, Marco Polo (Davao), Marriot (Cebu) and The Bellevue Hotel (Manila), Philippine Airlines, Pisanti, Kodak Express, Purefoods Corned Beef, Red Bull Barako and San Miguel Corp.

Alta Vista, which also finished runner-up last year, took home the overall title in Group I as its Team 1 made up of Ramontito Garcia, Carl Almario, Joseph Stevens and Edito Tirol capped an impressive performance with a win at the Orchard.

In the individual categories, Oh Kwang Tek of Eagle Ridge edged Almario of Alta Vista via the countback to top Class A while Rodriguez of Royale Tagaytay took top honors in Class B, Galicia of Palos Verdes ruled Class C and Antonio Villaruel prevailed in Class D.

The Palos Verdes contingent brought home the Sta. Lucia Cup, symbol of overall supremacy in the tour.

nzo cagers past Olivarez

l Capital Region Athletic Asso- AA) men's basketball tourna- milio Aguinaldo College gym.

n scored at will in the second rters as the Griffins grabbed a nd spot at 2-1 with La Salle- livarez in Group A.

c University of the Philippines led over CDSL, 57-41, in the ision, with Michelle Pacheco leading the way with 23 points.

Lim unleashed three of his seven triples in the second period as the Griffins took a 47-30 lead at the half. His three other treys in the third allowed CDSL to post a 60-44 edge.

Emilio Aguinaldo College leads Group A at 3-0 following a 58-36 thrashing of FEATI.

PATTS prevailed over AMA Computer College, 73-44, in Group B while CDSL won over San Beda-Alabang, 53-50, in junior play.

Why just innovate?

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Cavs, James soar high

McGrady gives Rockets a big boost

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
New York	8	8	.500	-
Boston	7	8	.467	2
Philadelphia	6	8	.429	1/2
Toronto	7	12	.368	21/2
New Jersey	4	12	.250	4
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Orlando	11	5	.688	-
Washington	10	5	.667	1/2
Miami	11	7	.611	1
Charlotte	4	10	.286	6
Atlanta	2	14	.125	9
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Cleveland	11	6	.647	-
Indiana	10	7	.588	1
Detroit	8	8	.500	21/2
Milwaukee	4	10	.286	51/2
Chicago	2	12	.143	71/2
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
San Antonio	15	3	.833	-
Dallas	12	6	.667	3
Houston	7	11	.389	8
Memphis	6	12	.333	9
New Orleans	1	14	.067	121/2
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Seattle	15	3	.833	-
Minnesota	11	5	.688	3
Denver	9	7	.563	5
Portland	8	7	.533	51/2
Utah	8	9	.471	61/2
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Phoenix	13	3	.813	-
Sacramento	11	5	.688	2
LA Clippers	10	7	.588	31/2
LA Lakers	10	7	.588	31/2
Golden State	4	12	.250	9

CLEVELAND—Drew Gooden scored 27 points and LeBron James had 27, his final field goal coming on a monstrous dunk that sent the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 105-97 win Saturday over the feuding Toronto Raptors, who didn't have Vince Carter.

"That took the life out of them," Gooden said. "I knew he was going to dunk it. What did you think he was going to do?"

Gooden added 15 rebounds and Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who made their final four shots and their last six free throws in the final three minutes to put the Raptors away.

It's still early in the season, but James likes his team's lofty status.

"I'd rather be in first than last," said James, who added 10 assists and six rebounds.

The Raptors played without Carter, who came down with food poisoning shortly after the club arrived from Boston. Carter stayed back at the hotel while his teammates tried to regroup one night after coach Sam Mitchell benched Rafer Alston and Loren Woods during the second half in Boston for picking up costly technical fouls.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Eric Williams scored 21 points as New Jersey shot a season-high 54.4 percent in a 109-88 drubbing of Atlanta that sent the Hawks to their ninth straight loss.

The game matched the Nets' league-worst offense (81.7 points) against the Hawks' league-worst defense (102.3).

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Steve Smith scored 20 points and hit two clutch shots in the final three minutes as Charlotte overcame a 41-point performance from Jamal Crawford to trip New York, 107-101.

GARNETT AFP

Crawford shot 17-of-25 but managed just four points in the final quarter and missed his last five shots. He also had a turnover with 44 seconds left and the Knicks trailing by four.

In Orlando, Florida, Grant Hill had 23 points and seven assists, and Orlando Magic took advantage of Memphis' sloppiness to carve out a 96-91 decision.

Orlando, by winning for the fifth time in six games, put itself six games over .500 for the first time since the end of the 2001-02 season.

In New Orleans, Ben Wallace made nine of his first 10 shots and finished with 22 points to lead Detroit to an easy 92-69 victory against New Orleans, which is yet to win at home in eight tries.

Wallace had 11 first-quarter points, including a pair of alley-oop dunks, as Detroit took an early double-digit lead and never looked back.

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored a season-high 34 points, and Larry Hughes padded his NBA lead with seven of his team's 17 steals as Washington beat Chicago, 95-88.

In Milwaukee, Tim Duncan's 20 points led San Antonio over Milwaukee, 104-83, to improve the Spurs' record to 15-3 for the best start in franchise history.

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki followed up his 53-point outburst with 30 points and seven rebounds as Dallas routed Utah, 109-86.

In Houston, Tracy McGrady had 17 points, including the winning basket with 25 seconds to play, as Houston nipped Philadelphia, 77-76, to end a five-game losing streak.

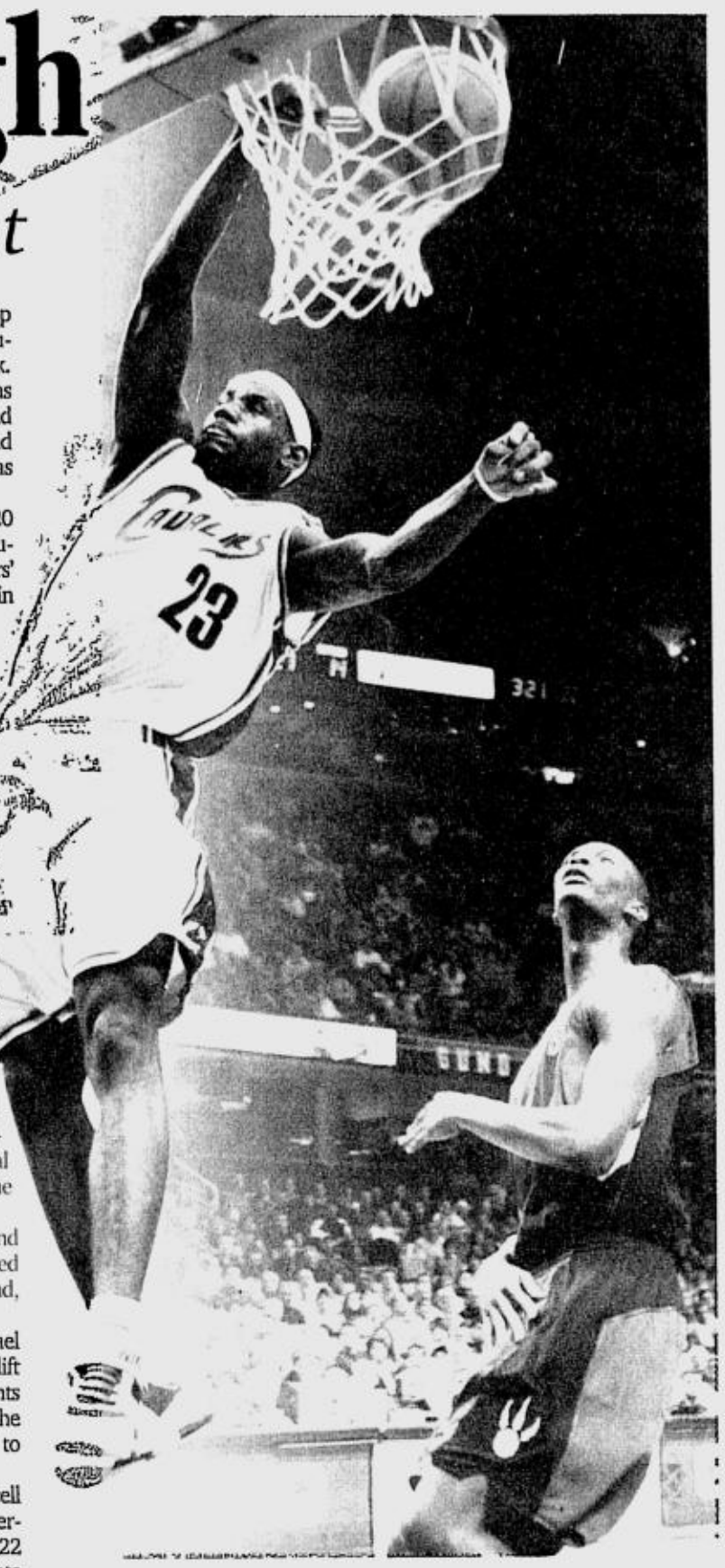
Marc Jackson hit two free throws with 37 seconds left to put Philadelphia ahead, 76-75. McGrady then hit a 20-foot jumper for the final lead.

In Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 28 points to surpass 2,000 for his career, and Denver controlled Miami's Shaquille O'Neal with constant double-teams on the way to a 104-95 triumph.

In Seattle, Rashard Lewis and Vladimir Radmanovic each scored 20 points, and Seattle beat Portland, 99-89, to improve to 15-3.

In Oakland, California, Mickael Pietrus gave Golden State just the lift it needed, contributing 15 points and six rebounds off the bench as the Warriors beat Indiana, 104-96, to end a four-game losing streak.

In Los Angeles, Sam Cassell scored eight of his 30 points in overtime and Kevin Garnett added 22 and 15 rebounds, helping Minnesota to its fifth straight victory with a 107-100 decision over the Clippers. *AP*



LEBRON James soars for one of the dunks he stuffed in during Cleveland's game against Toronto. His last slam, teammate Drew Gooden said, "took the life out of [the Raptors]." REUTERS

Raptors' worries pile up

CLEVELAND—Toronto All-Star forward Vince Carter has food poisoning and sat out Saturday's game against the Cleveland Cavaliers, further limiting the bickering and road-weary Raptors.

Carter, averaging a team-high 16.1 points per game, became ill early in the morning after arriving at the team's hotel from Friday's game in Boston. He stayed behind to rest and didn't join the Raptors for their fourth game on a six-game road swing.

His absence was the latest upheaval for the Raptors, who are still dealing with coach Sam Mitchell's benching of Loren Woods and Rafer Alston in the second half against the Celtics.

Mitchell yanked the pair after they were each charged with technicals late in the third quarter, aiding Boston's comeback in a 91-89 win. The first-year coach was highly critical of his players afterward, calling their conduct "inexcusable."

Mitchell kept Woods and Alston out of the starting lineup Saturday but said the two would play.

"It's over," Mitchell said before Saturday's game. "It's dead and it's time to move on. I'm not going to keep going back there."

But Mitchell did, explaining that he benched his players because he won't tolerate behavior that could cost his team a win.

"I got upset," he said. "Players get upset. You have to have a short memory in this league."

Alston hasn't forgotten the episode and was so upset that he threatened to leave the team and quit the NBA altogether. *AP*

Castillo labors to keep crown

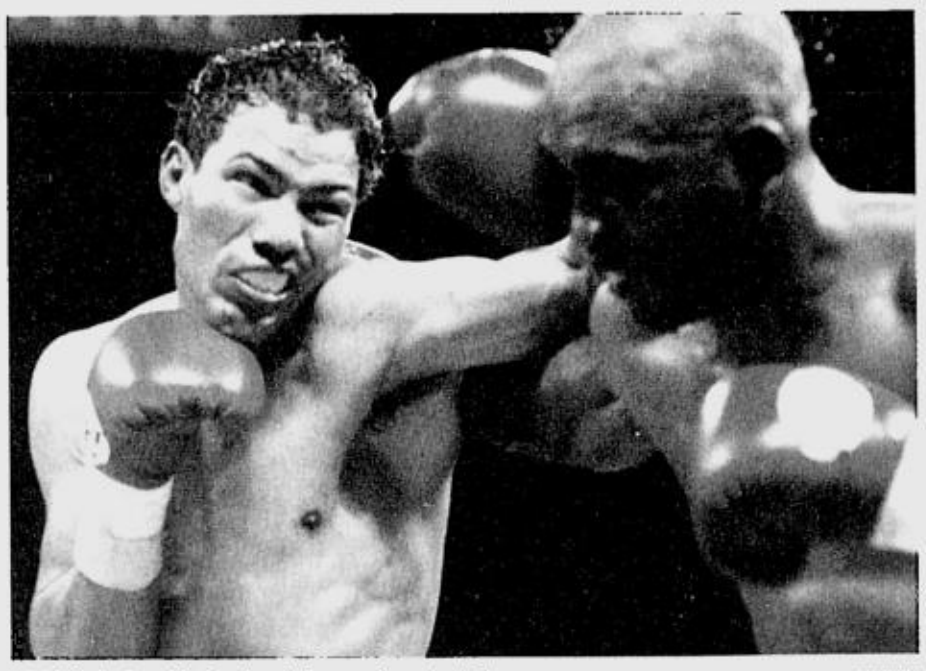
LAS VEGAS—Mexico's Jose Luis Castillo retained the World Boxing Council lightweight title Saturday, rallying in the late rounds for a split decision over Joel Casamayor at Mandalay Bay Events Center.

Judges Dr. James Jen Kin, Carol Castellano and Dave Moretti all gave the 30-year-old Castillo (51-6-1) the last three rounds.

"He was difficult as expected, but by the eighth, ninth rounds I knew this was my fight," Castillo said. "He was very fast, but not as fast as expected."

Casamayor, the former WBA super featherweight champion in his first title fight as a lightweight, was clearly the better fighter early. He found the range early with left hands and kept circling away from danger. But Castillo eventually caught up with the 33-year-old Cuban challenger.

"I am very disappointed," Casamayor said. "Of course, I thought I won. I was able to fight my fight and he never hurt me. He was easy to hit." *AP*



JOSE Luis Castillo lands a left punch on Joel Casamayor. REUTERS

Hot Lonard claims 3rd straight title

COOLUM, Australia—Australian Peter Lonard won his third tournament in as many weeks Sunday, shooting a 7-under-par 65 at the Australian PGA for a two-shot victory over third-round leader James Nitties.

Lonard fought a daylong battle with American Bob Estes and former amateur Nitties, an Australian who was playing in only his fourth professional tournament. Estes took the lead when he chipped in from the bunker on the par-4 10th, but Lonard pulled even with a birdie on the 12th.

Estes fell one behind when he bogeyed the par-3 11th, and Lonard, who came from five strokes back to win the Australian Open last week, birdied the tough par-4 16th to give him a two-shot cushion over the field.

Nitties, who had a one-shot lead over Estes after both the second and third rounds, finished with a 70. Estes also had a 70, including a bogey on the last, to finish in third. *AP*

Jimenez captures Hong Kong Open

HONG KONG—Spain's Miguel Angel Jimenez won his fifth tournament of the year with a one-shot victory at the Hong Kong Open on Sunday.

Jimenez, who carded a final round 66 for a 14-under-par total of 266, held off a spirited challenge from Irish ace Padraig Harrington and James Kingston of South Africa who finished joint second on 267.

The 40-year-old has enjoyed the best year of his career, finishing fourth on the Volvo Order of Merit with wins at the Johnnie Walker Classic, Algarve Open, Asian Open and BMW Open and being part of the triumphant European Ryder Cup team.

Harrington, who made a 20-foot birdie last year to win this tournament, could not repeat that feat this time, missing a 15-footer that would have force Jimenez into a playoff. *Reuters*

Unheralded driver beats Schumi

PARIS—Ferrari's Michael Schumacher failed to make the final of a charity contest to find motorsport's champion of champions on Saturday.

Schumacher, the most successful driver in Formula One history with seven world titles and 83 race wins, was beaten by up-and-coming Finn Heikki Kovalainen who then went on to outpace France's world rally champion Sebastien Loeb in a final showdown.

However, the German ace did beat Loeb in a special face-off between the two champions.

Kovalainen, a 23-year-old Renault development driver, has tested Formula One cars but never raced them.

"It's crazy. I didn't expect this," he said after the charity event in Paris' Stade de France that involved head-to-head heats in rally cars, Ferrari Modena sportscars and dune buggies.

Organizers had billed the event as "a unique showdown to help settle the argument of who is the world's best driver."

"I managed to beat David Coulthard at the beginning and when I beat Jean Alesi, I decided to go for it and I beat Michael Schumacher," said Kovalainen. *AP*

STAYING ALIVE
American twin brothers Mike Bryan (right) and Bob Bryan keep US hopes alive with a 6-0, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Spain's Juan Carlos Ferrero and Tommy Robredo and celebrate the triumph that kept the Americans alive in the Davis Cup finals. *See story on A34.*

Turkey bags vote for hosting rights

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia—Turkey won its bid Sunday to host the 2010 basketball world championship, narrowly edging out France, the sport's governing body said.

Three finalists—France, Turkey and a combined bid from former Yugoslav republics Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia-Montenegro and Slovenia—presented their bids to 19 representatives of Fiba's 20-member Central Board in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Fiba president Carl Men Ky Ching announced that Turkey won after a secret ballot.

In the first round of voting, France received eight votes, while Turkey had seven and the combined bid got four votes, said Florian Wanninger, Fiba's communications manager.

Turkey won the second round of voting, receiving 10 votes against nine for France.

Mehmet Atalay, Turkey's general director of youth and sports, said his country expects to spend about US$100 million (euro74 million) to boost its infrastructure for the 2010 event and another US$60 million (euro45 million) for other associated costs. *AP*

De la Cruz, Yambao rule Burlington 10K

RIO DE LA Cruz of the University of the Philippines needed one big burst of energy near the finish line to narrowly beat La Salle-Dasmariñas bet Alquin Bolivar yesterday for the men's crown of the Burlington Shock XT 10K Classic at the Rajah Sulaiman Park in Manila.

Liza Yambao of University of Santo Tomas was a cut above the rest in ruling the distaff race.

Both clocked 31:50 minutes in the race organized by the Media Runners and Sports Promotions for Burlington Industries Phils.

Ben Alejandrino of UST finished third in 32:20.

Yambao timed 40:06 minutes in beating Gloria Diaz (42:57) and Mary Anne Bucog (43:14).

PHILRACOM GRAND SPRINT

Easy does it for Arriba King

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

ARRIBA King proved he still is the fastest in local racing yesterday by easily cruising to victory in the 2004 Philracom Grand Sprint Championship at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

The 6-year-old bay horse was simply too strong in the 900-meter race, outclassing his two rivals that jockey Jonathan Hernandez found no need to punish him with the whip anymore.

"*Kusang-kusa ang itinakbo kaya hindi ko na ginamitan ng latigo* (He just ran on his own, so I didn't use the whip)," said Hernandez, whose highly touted mount cornered P1,260,729 in daily double sales out of P1,350,962.

Despite meeting feeble opposition from Sacred Hall and Gallant Warrior, Arriba King still turned in a sizzling time of 51.5 seconds over a track listed as fast. The Alymar-Carta Nueve progeny submitted fractions of 6-21.5-24, setting a new track record in the process.

The win was worth P300,000 for the Arceo Stable which rejoiced only a week ago when Arriba King, coming back from a seven-month layoff, topped the SMB-Marho Breeders' Cup Sprint for a record third straight year.

"*Sa klase ng itinakbo niya pwede pa uli siya* next year (With the way he ran, he is still good for next year)," added Hernandez, who earlier in the day piloted longshot Windlass to first place in the Christmas Festival.

Just like in the last Marho BC Sprint, Sacred Hall, handled by Dominador Borbe Jr., tried to inch close to Arriba King but could not do so, settling for second again, five lengths off the winner. Gallant Warrior, with Pat Dilema aboard, landed third and last, two lengths farther adrift.

In the other featured event, import Being There humbled former Presidential Gold Cup champion Free Wind by two lengths in the Roberto Reverente Cup over 1,600 m.

Being There, a 4-year-old chestnut mare sired by Distorted Humor out of Fanfare Bubbles, got an excellent ride from Eldy Salvador to complete the wire-to-wire romp for the Red N Stable.

Windlass, owned by Philtobo president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr., shot past Blazing Maldini nearing the home turn to prevail by two lengths over Alexi's Magic in the race also held over 1,600 m. Flying Jordan placed third.

Being There timed 1:40 flat, while Windlass clocked 1:41.

Briones entries lead 'Apordabol' finalists

NEWSPAPERMAN Rey Briones continued to dominate the local derby scene with his famed Spartan Red lines of fighting cocks, breezing through last Saturday's elimination round of the 4-day "Incredibol Na, Apordabol Pa 5-Cock Derby" with his entries, Spartan's RB & RB Diamante (with Erwin Diamante), at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Hosted by Rolly Ligon and presented by Thunderbird Power Feeds, the derby resumes at 3 p.m. today with the conclusion of the qualifying rounds featuring the last set of 90 entries. Dong Lacson, who bagged the fastest-kill award during last Thursday's opener, again came up with a perfect score through his entry, Bone Cutter, while Australia-based Romano Pedroche (Glenorie Back-Up) and partner Joe Mojeno rose to the occasion by easily clinching a berth in the finals set this Wednesday. A P2-million guaranteed cash prize and a 3-door Pajero are up for grabs for the winners. Also landing in the winners' circle are day champions Roderick Reyes (Richard Medalist), Roger Segismundo (RS Fairview I), , engineer Pajarillo (JMCSP), Darwin Torrs (Sherwin), Ronel Tanada (Ella), Peter Uren (Star Cross Farm), Daniel Jimenez (Babad Boys), Benjie Lim (Singit Lang and Biglaan), Efren Antalan (Butterfly), James Uy (JM Lista), Boy Jalandoni (BJ Sniper), Resto Pangilinan (Don Simeon), Junior Dequilla (Pasaway), Popoy Ong (Roy and Cris) and Madison Go (Master of the Ring).

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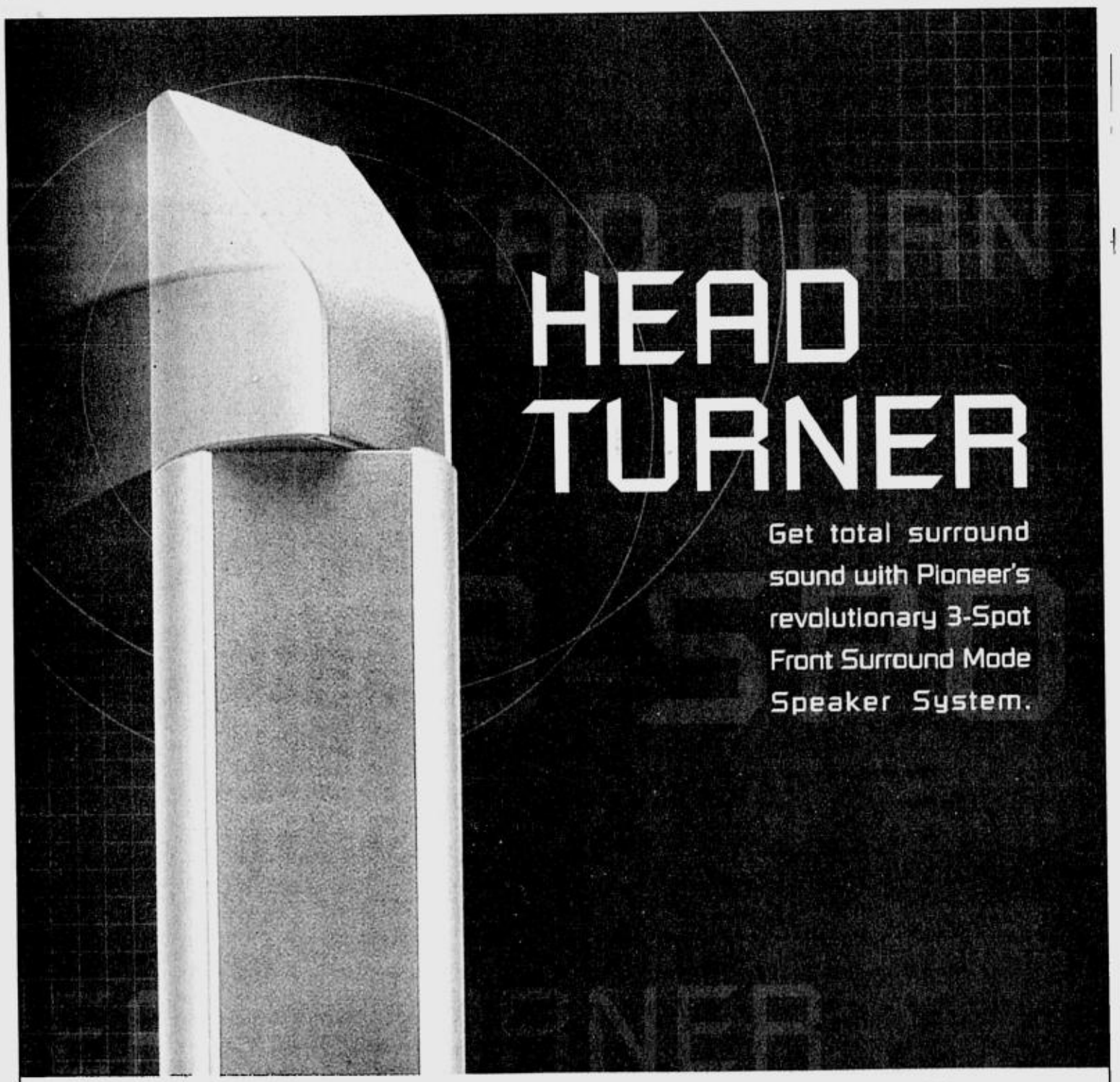

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BASKETBALL: NBA-Suns vs Blazers; 10 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Phoenix takes on western rival Portland at the Rose Garden.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL-Steelers vs Jaguars; 9:30 a.m. (r-4 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.); ESPN—AFC power Pittsburgh battles Jacksonville in the gridiron encounter.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Mangulat

WHAT'S INSIDE

Arizona football champions bring message of hope /A34

Westwood takes lead after sweltering day /A34

Good defense pays for top PBL squads

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE OLD and worn-out coaching dictum goes: Defense is the key.

And in the PBL Open Championship, the phrase has found a legitimate argument.

Approaching the homestretch of the elimination round, the league's top teams have shown that even with ice-cold offense, you can still work your way to the upper part of the standings by playing good defense.

And where does that put offense? As puzzling as it may be to figure out, the best shoot-

GOOD/ A35

STANDINGS	W	L
Granny Goose	6	2
Montaña	6	2
Magnolia-FEU	6	3
Welcoat	4	4
Toyota Otis	4	5
AMP-Ateneo	3	5
ICTSI-La Salle	3	6
Air Philippines	2	7

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Toyota-Otis Letran vs Welcoat
4 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Magnolia-FEU

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Westwood takes lead after sweltering day

STUART Appleby (center), Lee Westwood (left) and Appleby's caddie, locate Appleby's nearly lost ball. AFP

SUN CITY, South Africa—Stuart Appleby of Australia came within 30 seconds of being penalized for a lost ball Saturday as he surrendered the lead at the Nedbank Challenge to a steady Lee Westwood in sweltering conditions.

His second shot to the 18th hole plunged out of sight in the thick kikuyu grass face of a sand trap guarding the green at the 7,162-meter (7,835 yard) par-72 Gary Player Country Club course.

"I saw the TV guys looking bemused as I walked up and I knew there was trouble," said Appleby.

An increasingly frantic search followed and, eventually, playing partner Westwood's caddie found the ball.

In fact, it was Westwood's second caddie for the round after his regular bagman, Mark Bell, was taken from the 14th fairway to the course medical facility with heat exhaustion as temperatures soared to 36 degrees Celsius (97 degrees Fahrenheit).

"The ball was buried so deep, I had to mark it to be able to play it," said Appleby.

He managed to shoot it out to about 20 feet and sank the putt to save par.

In temperatures Westwood described as the hottest he had played in, he shot a one-under-par 71 to take a one-stroke lead over Retief Goosen at five-under-par after the third round.

Only former US Open champion Jim Furyk gave any impression of taming the course, firing a 66 which was all finesse on the green and included eight birdies, with bogeys at 11 and 14. He moved to joint sixth with Ernie Els.

Appleby said: "You have to coax a good score out of this course. The putter has got to do the talking, and Jim's round showed that grabbing the course by the scruff of the neck is not going to work."

Appleby's round of 74 meant he slid back to third, three-under-par, as South Africa's US Open champion Goosen shot a steady 71 to move within a shot of the lead.

Goosen, who has been fighting a cold for three weeks, still did not feel well, but said he thought he was on the mend.

Westwood's round started with three bogeys in the first four holes.

"I'm a fairly patient person and a lot can happen on this golf course," he said. *AP*

Myskina, Safin bag top awards in Russia

MOSCOW—French Open champion Anastasia Myskina has been voted Russia's female player of the year by the panel of tennis journalists, coaches and officials.

Australian Open runner-up Marat Safin won the men's award.

The Russian Tennis Federation announced the winners at its annual gala ceremony on Saturday.

MYSKINA

Myskina became the first Russian woman to win a grand slam title when she beat compatriot Elena Dementieva in the French Open final in June.

The 23-year-old Muscovite also capped a phenomenal year for Russian tennis by leading her country to their first Fed Cup title last week in Moscow.

Myskina won both of her singles matches in the final against holders France before teaming up with Vera Zvonareva to clinch the tie 3-2 in a dramatic victory in the decisive doubles.

SAFIN

Sweep

Russian women have swept the last three grand slam titles in 2004, with 17-year-old Maria Sharapova lifting the Wimbledon crown and Svetlana Kuznetsova winning the US Open.

Not all seem to be getting along, however.

Myskina was recently critical of the actions of Sharapova's father following a victory by the popular teenager.

Myskina went as far as saying she would not join any Fed Cup squad with Sharapova as a teammate.

Safin reached the Australian Open final in January, losing to Roger Federer, before suffering a mid-season slump. However the 2000 US Open champion won back-to-back Masters Series events in Paris and Madrid to finish the year at number four in the world.

Russia's Fed Cup team scooped the team of the year award. *Reuters*

Arizona football champions bring message of hope

By Francis Ochoa

JIM Rattay remembers how it was being an orphan owning nothing more than three pieces of coins and an indefatigable hope for a better life.

"I had three pieces of coins and I put it in a rag and I buried it under a tree," said the Phoenix Christian High coach.

"And once a month, I would go out to them and just touch them and bury them again. I couldn't do anything with them, but I thought I had, like, a piece of gold, something that I could hang on to. They were all I had."

The coins were the symbol of the hope he bore.

Now 56, Rattay is a successful coach, having steered Phoenix Christian to back-to-back state championships. His son, Tim is a starting quarterback with the San Francisco 49ers in the NFL.

And you'd think with all these, Rattay finally earned the right to let out a hearty and vindictive ha-ha. No.

Just the other day, Rattay sloshed through the muck along the Marikina river and surveyed the devastation left behind by four storms that hit the country recently.

"It didn't look good," said Rattay. "I've never seen such poverty, such little means. And yet, I saw happy faces, people were still enjoying life."

Rattay, his fellow coaches and a few players, are in the country under the Feed The Need program, spreading more than just nourishment to the less fortunate people.

With him are George Zaksek of the Don Stewart Association and his son, soccer player Jonathan; Phoenix assistant Bob Bruce; Scottsdale Christian Academy's Larry Bandura; Will Munsel, Scottsdale's starting quarterback and an all-state baseball player; dentist Morgan Tyner; Cliff Weston, a football player who suffered a Christopher Reeve-type spinal injury but worked his way back; and goals coach Forrest Cottrell.

DEVASTATED by storms, Marikina's children get a much-needed assist.

Their objective is not just to feed the less fortunate, but to also improve their attitude and outlook in life.

"[In Phoenix], we had a team that didn't think it could win a championship because the players did not have the belief," said Cottrell. "But when you create a goal, create new habits, you break down barriers in the mind. If you can do that in a football team, you can do that in other areas of life."

"Here, we go out and give them food. But what about tomorrow? We won't be here tomorrow. We hope to teach people new habits."

The group, though very much Western in culture as proven by their passion for American football, is guided by wisdom from the Orient: Give someone fish, he is happy for a day. Teach him to fish, he is happy for the rest of his life.

Rattay said at the start, the sight of all the hardships startled the young players who tagged along the trip. "Everybody was shocked. You can't be told reality. You can only live reality."

Before the trip, the kids raised money on their own. Devoid of fat contracts and endorsement deals, the players passed tin cans and collected coins. They raised enough money to not only bring 10 people here, but also buy food, pencils, toys, candies and other useful stuff.

And the group feels the kids get more than what they put into the project.

"After what they see here, their lives will be changed forever," said Cottrell.

"We can only give a little bit and we can't change their lives completely," said Bandura. "It's our lives that change because our kids, they remember that for the rest of their lives. It's kinda selfish in a way because we do God's work and actually benefit from it."

In a way, Rattay has given other less fortunate kids their own three pieces of coins.

COACH Jim Rattay (left) builds champions on the field—and off it.

DAVIS CUP

Bryans give US a chance

SEVILLE, Spain—The Bryan twins saved the United States from a quick exit from the Davis Cup final.

Bob and Mike Bryan defeated the Spanish pair of Tommy Robredo and Juan Carlos Ferrero on clay Saturday, winning, 6-0, 6-3, 6-2, to leave Spain with a 2-1 lead going into Sunday's deciding reverse singles in the best-of-five final.

The Spaniards are trying to match the only Davis Cup they won four years ago, and the United States is trying to win its 32nd, but its first since 1995.

The Bryans won the first set in 27 minutes, with their teammates leaping off the bench to celebrate hard-won points.

Playing before another sellout crowd of 27,200 at Olympic Stadium, the Spaniards settled down in the second with both teams broken once in the first four games.

But, with the United States leading 4-3, the Americans again broke Spain, and Bob Bryan served out the set.

The Americans broke Spain in the first game of the final set, setting them on course to take the match in one hour, 39 minutes.

"The US brothers are great players in doubles," Spanish captain Jordi Arrese said. "They are great specialists. Our faith is to win (Sunday) and finish with a 3-1 result."

The Spanish players were cheered on by Prince Felipe, the heir to the Spanish throne, and his wife, Princess Letizia. The prince has a degree from Georgetown University, but there was no doubt about which team he supported.

Arrese named Ferrero Saturday to play doubles with Robredo, replacing 18-year-old Nadal. Nadal was called in for Ferrero in Friday's singles.

Ferrero only managed to hold his serve once in the three sets.

He is finishing the worst season of his career, which included a broken rib and a bout of chicken pox. Ferrero is a former world No.1-ranked player and a French Open champion.

"It was a difficult game against the best doubles players," Ferrero said.

Nadal on Friday defeated American No. 1 Andy Roddick in four sets. Nadal won, 6-7 (6), 6-2, 7-6 (6), 6-2 and Carlos Moya opened by beating Mardy Fish, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

On Sunday, Moya is set too play Roddick in the opener with Fish and Nadal playing the second singles match.

Only one team in Davis Cup history has come back from a 2-0 deficit to win the championship—Australia in 1939 over the US.

Roddick has a 3-0 edge on Moya in career matches, but all of the victories have come on a hardcourt surface. *AP*

Chelsea puts pressure on football rivals

LONDON—Arsenal dropped the goalkeeper that kept it unbeaten through 49 league matches Saturday as it beat Birmingham 3-0 in the Premier League, while Chelsea and Manchester United also posted comfortable wins.

The Gunners dropped German 'keeper Jens Lehmann and replacement Manuel Almunia kept Arsenal's first clean sheet in 14 matches. Arsenal scored off two Thierry Henry goals and another from Robert Pires.

Chelsea stayed on top, five points clear, with a 4-0 win over Newcastle.

Manchester United beat Southampton 2-0 off second half goals from Paul Scholes, Wayne Rooney and Cristiano Ronaldo. Everton snatched a 3-2 win over Bolton thanks to a Radhi Jaidi own goal with five minutes left.

In other Saturday matches; Aston Villa 1, Liverpool 1; Norwich 0, Fulham 1 and Portsmouth 3, West Bromwich Albion 2. Blackburn hosts Tottenham in the late match.

Chelsea has 39 points, with Arsenal on 34, Everton 33 and Manchester United 30. On Sunday, it's Crystal Palace-Charlton. Monday's game is Middlesbrough-Manchester City.

At Highbury, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger dropped Lehmann for the first time since he arrived at Highbury last July from Borussia Dortmund.

Lehmann, 35, hadn't kept a clean sheet in 13 games over two months, conceding 17 goals—but has only lost twice in 53 league matches.

Arsenal, with a 10-4-2 record, has let in 20 goals this season.

Almunia had previously only started three League Cup ties for Arsenal. He started despite letting in Manchester United's winner in the first minute in the Gunners' League Cup quarterfinal loss on Wednesday.

He didn't have a shot to save in the first half, but nearly let in a speculative volley from Clinton Morrison in the second—the ball slipped through his fingers, only for him to recover it just before it rolled over the goal line.

Arsenal had only made six points from its previous six matches, which saw its five point lead at the top of the standings disappear.

Pires gave Arsenal the lead in the 33rd minute, collecting a mis-hit clearance in the box and slotting it past the far post. Henry scored twice in the final ten minutes.

At Stamford Bridge, Chelsea notched up its second consecutive 4-0 league win. Newcastle kept Chelsea quiet in the first half, but second half changes by the Blues led to goals.

Didier Drogba set up Frank Lampard for the opener in the 63rd, with the roles switching for the Frenchman to net six minutes later. Arjen Robben added the third with two minutes remaining, before Mateja Kezman scored his first league goal for the club by converting an injury-time penalty. *AP*

CHELSEA'S Mateja Kezman (left) tries to score from an overhead kick against Newcastle United during their English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London. REUTERS

So heads RP Team to Asian meet

WESLEY SO is rated highly in his division.

By Roy Luarca

WHAT he failed to do in the world arena last month, whiz kid Wesley So will try to accomplish at the Asian level this time.

So, who settled for 13th place in the boys' 12-under division of the 2004 World Youth Chess Championships, will spearhead a lean Philippine team competing in the Asian Youth Chess Championships slated Dec. 10-18 in Singapore.

The 11-year-old So is rated highly in his division having won the Asean Youth edition held in Vietnam last August and finishing ahead of his fellow Southeast Asians, including Singaporean Fide Masters Daryl Tsui-Hern Wong and Terry Zheng Yuan Chua, in the World Youth meet held in Crete, Greece. Wong landed 49th while Chua finished 71st among 122 bets.

So, a fifth grader at St. Francis of Assisi-Bacoor whose FM title is being held in abeyance, gained prominence when he bested International Masters Petronio Roca, Ronald Dableo and Chito Garma in this year's National Open men's finals.

Proving that his feat was no fluke, So is also making heads turn in the ongoing 2004 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities with his superb play while manning Board 4 for top seed Tagaytay City A.

Joining So in the team being fielded by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines are Luzelle Dacayo in the girls' 10-under, Jedara Docena in the girls' 12 -under and Randolf Dalauta in the boys' 14-under.

If Chinese prodigies Zhao Nan, Ding Liren and Liu Qinghan decide to join the Asian Youth, however, it will be an uphill climb for So.

That's because they finished ahead of So at 1st, 2nd and fourth, respectively, in the boys' 12-under of the World Youth. Ding beat So in the fourth of the 11-round event.

Chardine Cheradee Camacho, also a Promil endorser like So and fifth placer in the girls' 10-under division of the World Youth, won't be able to join Team Philippines as she needs to catch up with her lessons at the Aringay School of Science, Arts, Technology and Trade.

Prince Mark Aquino, a prized find from San Nicolas, Pangasinan, who also placed 13th in the boys' 10-under of the same World Youth, however, may yet make it as an extra player.

NCFP president Go Teng Kok, satisfied with the Filipino youngsters' performance in Greece, has again designated NCFP director Willie Abalos to act as head of the Singapore-bound delegation.

Grandmasters Joey Antonio and Eugene Torre, Garma and Petronio Roca will also fly to Singapore to join the open tournament which will be held simultaneously with the Asian Youth Chess Championships.

Antonio, who plays Board 1 for Tagaytay A, and Torre, Asia's first GM who skipped the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities, are also expected to figure prominently in the title race after lifting the Philippine men's team to 19th place in the 36th Chess Olympiad held in Calvia, Majorca, Spain.

At stake is $3,000 for the champion, $2,000 for the second placer and $1,000 for the third placer.

FEU Tamaraws grab UniGames overall crown

FAR EASTERN University captured three team championships and placed second in three other events to take the overall crown in the 9th National University Games (UniGames) held in Bacolod recently.

The Tamaraws competed in eight events, including the centerpiece athletics, and topped the general standings over runner-up De La Salle University and third placer University of the Philippines.

The Morayta, Manila-based athletes collected 25 of the 40 gold medals at stake in track and field with sprinter Sharon Gizmundo winning seven gold medals.

Brightest star

Gizmundo, the brightest star in the team coached by former national athlete Dario de Rosas, ruled the 100-m, 200-m and 400-m races and anchored the Lady Tams to impressive victories in four relays.

In all, FEU's crack female athletes bagged 13 gold medals, three of them via new meet records in the two-day competition.

The men's team, coached by Cito Andaya, duplicated the Lady Tams' feat by winning 12 gold medals, seven of which were secured by Jeffrey Lozande, and setting five UniGames records.

The UAAP champions Tamaraws also dominated the men's volleyball competition, sweeping all its seven games for the title.

Coach George Pascua's charges topped its group in the eliminations and went on to wrap up the crown with a straight-sets victory over Cebu's University of San Jose.

Lady Archers triumph

La Salle, the reigning UAAP women's champs, foiled an FEU twin kill by upending the erstwhile unbeaten Lady Tams in the dramatic women's volleyball title clash.

College of St. Benilde beat FEU, 3-2, for the crown in women's table tennis.

"The whole university is proud of the success achieved by the teams, especially with FEU's already strong showing in the UAAP," said FEU athletic director Mark Oliver Molina.

"FEU's impressive performance at the UniGames only showed the school's enduring strength in sports and athletic development."

GABBY Espinas of Addict Mobile-Ateneo elects to pass under pressure from two Air Philippines defenders during a recent game. The Flight may be one of the two best offensive teams in the PBL Open but they don't do well in defense. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Good defense pays for top PBL squads

From page A33

ing teams are right at the bottom of the eight-team standings.

The ICTSI-La Salle Archers are hitting a relatively torrid 46 percent clip from the floor while the Air Philippines Flight sport a 43.5 percent shooting clip.

Combined, though, the two teams have won just five games so far in the conference.

That's one less win than what defending champion Magnolia-FEU, Montaña Pawnshop and Granny Goose have piled up. Each.

And this despite the fact that the three are ranked at the bottom in field goal percentages.

The Wizards are dead last with a 39.4 percent clip. The Jewelers are just a shade better at 40.4 percent and the Tortillos are at 42 percent.

The three teams, though, have found a way to make up for it, shutting opposing squads down in the defensive end.

Magnolia-FEU limited its opponents to only 61.3 points per game, followed by Welcoat—which has four wins—at 68.1 ppg.

And the disparity is huge when compared to Air Philippines, which allowed other teams to score 80.3 ppg. ICTSI-La Salle gave up 78.4 ppg.

The top three teams also dominated rebounding. Magnolia-FEU averaged 23.7 rebounds per game, Montaña Pawnshop grabbed 20.6 rpg, followed by Granny Goose at 20 rpg.

Granny Goose and Welcoat also led the league in blocks at 5.5 bpg, while Montaña was tops in steals at 8.6 spg.

About the only offensive statistic helping out the top teams right now is the assists department.

Welcoat averaged 15.6 apg, while Granny Goose and Magnolia-FEU took the second spot at 15.8 apg.

MUATHAI MARVELS: Lightweight Jerson Estoro (third from left) and middleweight Robert Bumina-Ang (fifth from left), champions in the First World Martial Arts Cup held recently at the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut, pay a courtesy call on Senate committee on sports chair Sen. Lito Lapid. Sixty top martial arts practitioners from 17 countries competed in the championships. Lapid pledged his support for Muaythai whom he described as a "potential gold medal source for the country in next year's Southeast Asian Games." With Estoro and Bumina-Ang are (from left) team coach and RP representative to the World Muaythai Federation Brico Santig, team manager Ed Dames, trainer Noli Bassig, adviser Joseph Gadit and World Tong-Il Moo-Do Asia president Dr. Venus Agustin.

Police quiz Porto chief over ref bribe bid

LISBON—The chief of European champions Porto was questioned on Friday as part of an investigation into alleged attempts to influence referees.

Jorge Nuno Pinto da Costa, the Porto chair, arrived voluntarily at a courthouse in Gondomar to answer questions from police.

He was formally detained on arrival, questioned and released more than three hours later.

TSF radio said Pinto da Costa was released on condition of reporting periodically to police and remaining in the Porto area. He will have to return to court on Tuesday, the day when they host England's Chelsea in a Champions League match.

A police or court spokesman was not immediately available to comment.

Four referees and an agent were detained on Thursday for questioning in the "Golden Whistle" investigation into attempts to influence match officials.

Officers of the Judiciary Police searched the Porto offices as well as a Pinto da Costa home on Thursday, Lusa news agency reported. The club chair had been in Spain at the time. *Reuters*

Bautista defends title vs South African Jan. 8

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

WORLD Boxing Organization Asia-Pacific bantamweight champion Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista will defend his title against Zolani Mbelekane of South Africa on Jan. 8 next year at the air-conditioned Mandaue City Sports Complex.

International promoter Samson Gello-ani tapped the durable Mbelekane to challenge Bautista after Pan European champion Matt Powell backed out.

Gello-ani forged the deal in Cape Town, South Africa, where his fighter Bert Batawang scored a sensational seventh round knockout of hometown hero Sipthembele Kibiti recently.

The 18-year-old Bautista, touted as the country's "next Manny Pacquiao," is being pitted against Mbelekane to find out his true strength, according to Gello-ani.

"Bautista has beaten boxers from Indonesia, Korea, Japan and Thailand," said Gello-ani. "It will not do him any good to fight another Asian. A highly-rated African like Mbelekane should bring the best out of him."

Managed and trained by Colin Nathan, who owns the Hot Box gym in Johannesburg, Mbelekane is South Africa's No. 5 junior bantamweight contender and parades a 13-8-2 win-loss-draw record with 6 stoppages.

African boxers are known for their toughness and durability. They have won over the likes of Randy Suico and Wyndell Janiola.

The last African to fight in Cebu was Lawrence Ngobeni who drew with Tirso Albia at the Waterfront Hotel in 2001.

Fornier, Matutina top Boracay tilt

JOEY Fornier emerged overall champion and Lloyd Matutina took low-gross honors in the 5th Chairman's Golden Cup golf tournament held at the Fairways & Bluewater Golf and Country Club in Boracay, Aklan, recently.

The tournament, held in honor of FBGCC chair Noel "Toti" Cariño and backed by Globe Telecoms and Pacsports, drew over 100 players.

The other winners were Bernardo Capa in the Fairways division (members), Don J. Padilla in the Bluewater division (guests and sponsors), Smokey Kim in the Pirates division (system 36 format) and Claudine Ang in the White Beach division (ladies).

Finishing second were Efren Capa in Fairways, Don A. Padilla in Bluewater, Marcus Cerveny in Pirates and Clarita Tan in the ladies class.

Berlin gets right to host 2009 world athletics championships

HELSINKI, Finland—Berlin was named the venue for the 2009 world track and field championships Saturday by the International Association of Athletics Federations.

The German capital beat the two other European cities; Valencia in Spain and Split, Croatia.

The vote, during a weekend meeting of the IAAF Council, was preceded by audiovisual presentations from each bidding city and a summary of the IAAF's evaluation team.

Berlin lost bids to host the athletics championships in 1991 and 2005. Helsinki hosts next year's edition. *AP*

THIS WEEK ON NBA RPN

BOSTON CELTICS vs KINGS
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CLEVELAND CAVALIERS @ SAN ANTONIO SPURS — DEC. 12 10:00 AM

MONDAYS, THURSDAYS and SUNDAYS

sports shift

SPORTS

RP dancesport bets picked for SEA Games

Standard category pairs (from left) Emmanuel Reyes-Maira Rosete and Rico Rosima-Filomena Salvador and Latin category tandems (starting sixth from left) Belinda Adora-Michael Mendoza and Dearlie Gerodia-John Erolle Melencio pose with Dance Sport Council of the Philippines president Becky Garcia after the dancers were selected to represent the country in next year's Southeast Asian Games. Garcia said all four pairs are heavily picked to bag gold medals in the Games.

YOUTH CHAMPS: Reynato Rener Mercado and Judith Anne Melencio won the Youth Standard title of the 8th DSCP National Championships held at the PhilSports Arena recently. They are shown with DSCP president Becky Garcia, outgoing POC president Celso Dayrit and Petron Corp president Khalid Al-Faddagh.

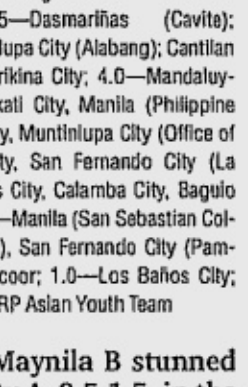
NAT'L TEAM CHESS

Maynila B, Dasma finish 1-2 in elims

Final elimination round rankings:

6.0—Maynila B; 5.5—Dasmariñas (Cavite); 5.0—Tagaytay City A, Muntinlupa City (Alabang); Cantilan (Surigao Del Sur); 4.5—Marikina City; 4.0—Mandaluyong City, Tanauan City, Makati City, Manila (Philippine Navy), Maynila A, Quezon City, Muntinlupa City (Office of the Mayor); 3.5—Cavite City, San Fernando City (La Union); 3.0—General Santos City, Calamba City, Baguio City, RP Womens' Team; 2.5—Manila (San Sebastian College), Tagbilaran City (Bohol), San Fernando City (Pampanga), Tagaytay City B, Bacoor; 1.0—Los Baños City; 0.5—Tuguegarao City; 0.0—RP Asian Youth Team

TAGAYTAY CITY—Maynila B stunned touted Tagaytay City A, 2.5-1.5, in the seventh round Saturday to top the elimination round of the 2004 National Inter Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship at the Tagaytay Sports Center here.



DABLEO: Key win

Asian zonal champion International Master Ronald Dableo and Noel Dela Cruz defeated IM Richard Bitoon and Jerome Balico on Boards 2 and 3, respectively, as the fifth seeded Maynila B barged into the semifinals ahead of third seed Dasmariñas.

Maynila B finished with 6.0 points while Dasmariñas, whose stint is supported by Philippine Chess Master Association head Boy Pobre, wound up with 5.5 following a 3.5-0.5 rout of 12th seed Manila (Philippine Navy).

"*Nagpumilit kaming manalo*, target *kasi namin na makapasok na agad sa* semifinal round (We persevered to win because our target is to reach the semifinal round early)," said Dableo.

"*Iba na s'yempre yung* waiting *ka*. At least *makapagpapahinga kami bukas ng umaga* (It's different if you're already waiting. At least we can rest tomorrow [Sunday] morning)."

The semifinal round of the event organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, starts at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Antonio held to a draw

Grandmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antonio, Tagaytay City A's top board player, settled for a draw with IM-candidate Darwin Laylo in a tense Board 1 encounter.

Eleven-year-old Wesley So scored Tagaytay's lone win at the expense of Carlo Magno Rosaupan on Board 4

"*Babawi kami* (We'll be back)," said So, who helped Tagaytay City A beat second seed Mandaluyong City, 2.5-1.5, in the fifth round and 4th seed Maynila A, 3-1, in the sixth round.

Tagaytay City A got stuck at 5.0 points, the same output of 13th seed Cantilan (Surigao del Sur) and 6th seed Muntinlupa City (Alabang). Alabang beat Muntinlupa City (Office of the Mayor), 3-1, and Makati City (PriManila Plans Inc.), 2.5-1.5, respectively.

Marikina City last to semis

Eighth seed Marikina City settled for a 2-2 standoff with Maynila A, but earned the last semifinals seat with 4.5 points.

Marikina City will clash with Tagaytay City A in the semifinals of the tournament sponsored by the Tagaytay City government headed by Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.

Cantilan, a first-timer in the semifinals, is slated to face Muntinlupa City (Alabang)

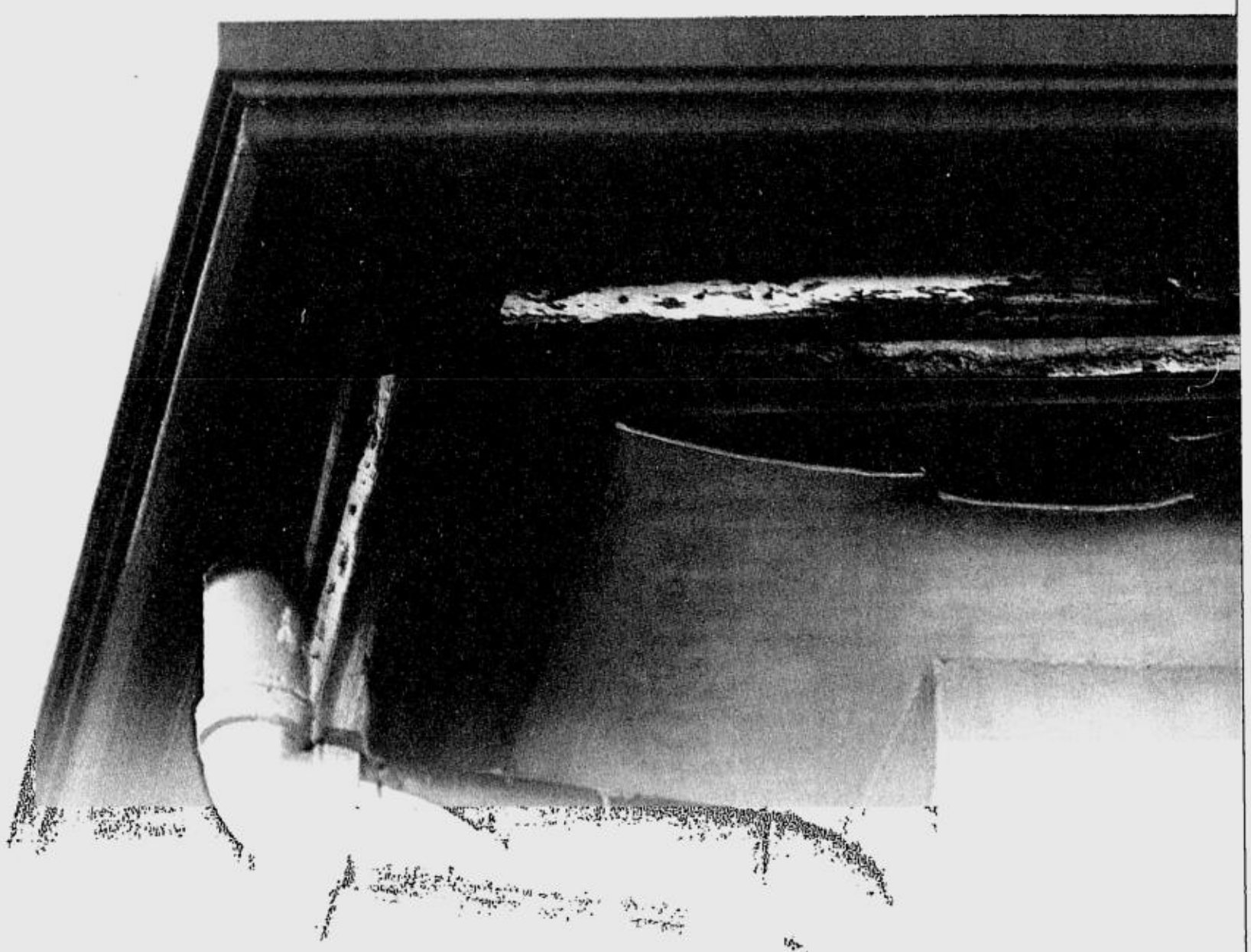
IM Petronio Roca, NM Oliver Barbosa and Raymond Salcedo provided the victories in Dasmariñas' 3.5-0.5 conquest of Manila, represented here by the Philippine Navy chess team, in the seventh round.

Basilio Pandan, on the other hand, scored Muntinlupa-Alabang's victory that clinched its 2.5-1.5 win over Makati City. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Alay kay Mayor tourney registration Dec. 11-12

REGISTRATION for the 2004 Inter-Barangay and 5th "Alay Kay Mayor Marides Carlos Fernando" 2050 and below active chess tournament gets under way on Dec. 11-12 in Marikina City. For inquiries, call tournament organizing committee chair Johnny Gaudia at 0919-626-8874 or tournament arbiter NM Rudy Ibañez at 0920-846-0780.

The price of not knowing what Senepa is.



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A37

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Perpetual warrior

After all these years, Director Gil Portes is still very critical of prevailing systems in the local movie industry, and very outspoken about what serious filmmakers should do.

"IF YOU cannot make it in your own country, go abroad," says Direk Gil, here shown with a 2003 Urian Award for "Munting Tinig."

By Bayani S. San Diego Jr.
Contributor

IF FILMMAKING were a war, internationally acclaimed Filipino director Gil Portes would be a guerilla in the order of Che Guevara.

Assertive, even combative, Direk Gil has very strong opinions on almost everything under the sun and is not afraid to make them known.

In contrast, his films—which cover a wide gamut of subjects, emotions, and geographies, from "'Merika" to "Mulanay"—are lyrical in their subtlety and sadness. Then again, that is the hallmark of a Portes production.

In his owns words: "My movies are very simple, but complex at the same time."

Define 'independent'

First, Direk Gil gives us a lesson on Philippine film history. To define the much bandied-about term "independent," he situates it in a historical context.

"There is really no (rigid) definition," he says. "For all intents and purposes, all Filipino movies are independently produced. In the heyday, and even after the heyday, of the studio system, there was a very strong organization of movie producers, the PMPA (Philippine Movie Producers Association). It's still there, but it's no longer active. There was another organization, the IMPIDAP (Independent Movie Producers), which was initiated by Regal. It's no longer around, either. So all movies in the Philippines are being produced independently."

Except that there are dominant players in the industry.

"There will always be dominant players, but they no longer report to an organization," he points out. "Before, booking was done through these organizations. That is not the case now."

Half a shoestring

He insists: "Independent filmmaking doesn't have to be low-budget or cheap." And to emphasize: A good independent film can be produced with anywhere between P3 million to P100 million as investment.

His "Munting Tinig," "Homecoming," and "Beautiful Life," for example, cost merely P6 to P9 million. Compared to P17 million for Maryo J. delos Reyes' "Naglalayag" and P30 million for Mark Meiley's "Crying Ladies," that is not even a shoestring budget; that's half a string!

On the other hand, two of Direk Gil's upcoming projects, "Bells of Balangiga" and "Hermano Pule" "will be expensive because they are period, historical films." Thus, his definition is not based on budget or the lack thereof.

"An independent film does not adhere to prevailing formulas for a commercial movie, not only in terms of the modes of production, but also in terms of content and structure," he says.

Always different

In a lot of ways, this describes Direk Gil's body of work. "My films are always different," he asserts. "They're not like a Star Cinema or a Viva Films production!"

If one were to search for a common thread in the Portes canon, it would be honesty.

He explains: "My films are grounded on real issues, real events."

The late Ishmael Bernal saw Direk Gil's debut film "Tiket Mama, Tiket Ale... Sa Linggo ang Bola" in 1976.

"He told me: You

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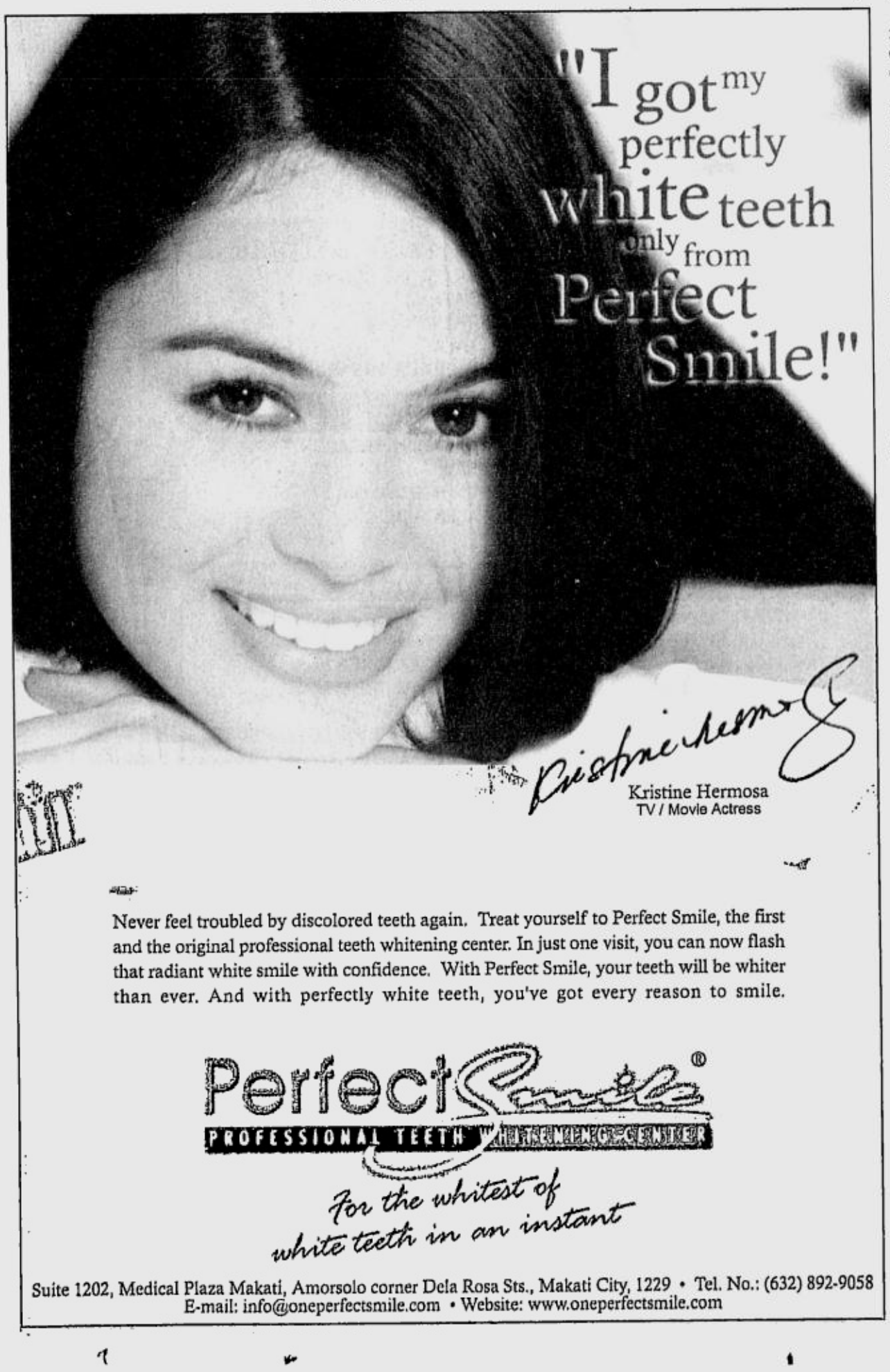

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2 NATIONAL TREASURE	2 PASIYAM	2 NATIONAL TREASURE	6 ALEXANDER	2 BRIDGET JONES 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20	2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON
3 ALEXANDER	BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON	3 BRIDGET JONES: 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30	7 SEED OF CHUCKY	3 THE INCREDIBLES 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	3 FIRST DAUGHTER
4 THE POLAR EXPRESS		4 CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS		4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30	4 NATIONAL TREASURE
5 SEED OF CHUCKY	4 NATIONAL TREASURE	GB1 (Greenbelt 1)		5 ALEXANDER 1:15, 4:25, 7:35, 10:45	5 THE POLAR EXPRESS
		1 ALEXANDER 2:15, 5:25, 8:35			
		2 BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40			

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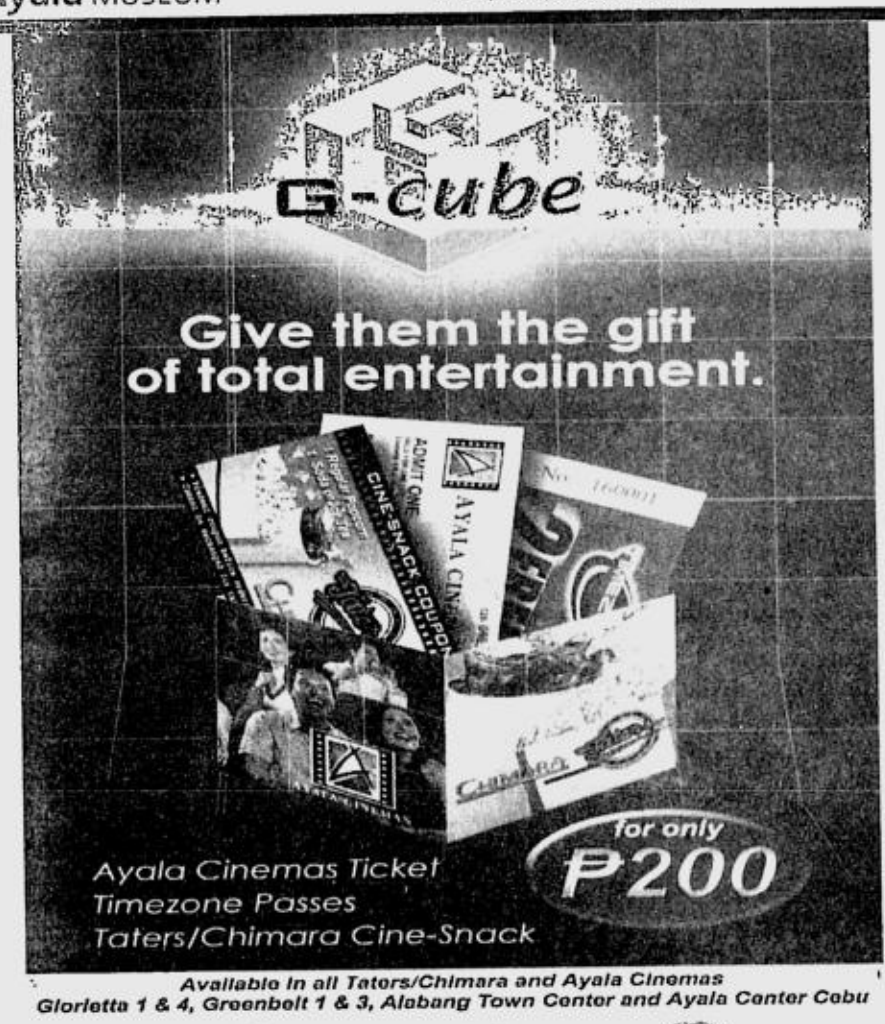

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PORTES with Alessandra de Rossi in "Munting Tinig," a movie he is "very proud" of.

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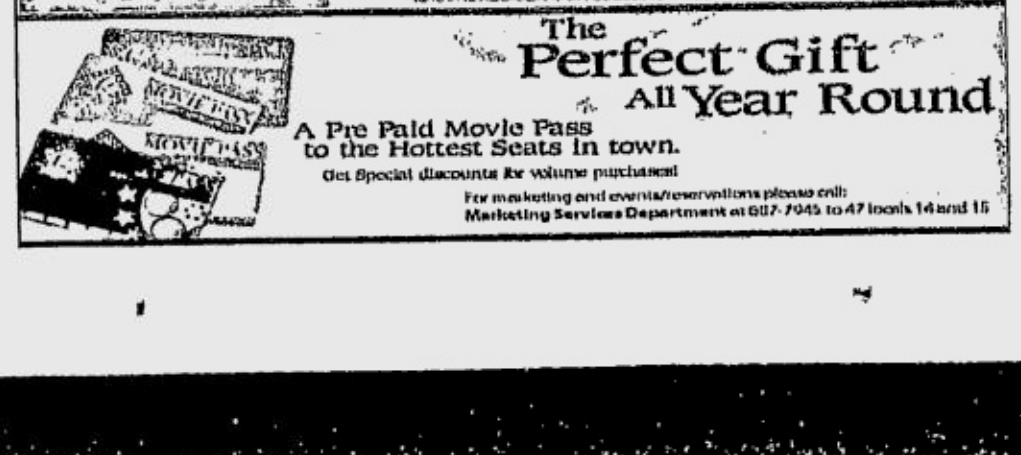

Perpetual warrior

From page A37

are different," he recalls. "'For your first movie, you decided to make an alternative film.' That is why, until now, I try to make movies that are different."

He is just as happy about some other achievements. "I am proud that 'Munting Tinig' was bought by US distributors. I am proud that "Saranggola," "Gatas sa Dibdib ng Kaaway" and "Munting Tinig" were submitted as the country's entries to the Oscar Awards. I am proud that a simple boy like me from Pagbilao, Quezon, is now being noticed."

Not just here at home, he means, but also abroad.

Top achievement

All the entries in the Oscar Best Foreign Language Film category are invited to the Palm Springs International Film Festival. "Munting Tinig" won the Audience Award there, tying with Germany's "Nowhere in Africa," which won at the 2002 Oscars.

But the achievement that he is most proud of is his family —his wife and two kids—based in the US.

In turn, his audience and followers, in turn, treasure him for his sometimes cutting, sometimes hilarious, but always inimitable, opinions on industry issues.

Following are some of them.

On the Metro Manila Film Festival: "To avoid all controversies... go back to the original rule: (To be considered as an entry) the film, not just the script, should be finished. It's not a scriptwriting contest. And make sure deadlines are met."

On the movies churned out by the MMFF: "I have yet to see a film that won Best Picture at the Metro Manila Filmfest in the last five years, except 'Crying Ladies,' that was appreciated abroad."

On the planned Quezon City Film Festival: "I hear they will give 100 percent tax rebate to the entries. That's encouraging."

On the ailing local film industry: "It's dead."

On government support for the film industry: "You cannot depend on government because it's bankrupt."

On what can be done: "Daring directors and adventurous producers... if you cannot make it in your own country, go abroad, to international festivals and hope that your film will be picked up by foreign distributors."

That's Gil Portes, still fighting and feisty, after all these years. "I am always struggling. That is important."

When 'horrific' becomes terrific

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

EVER since **Chito Roño**'s comeback film, the "horrific" "Feng Shui," made a terrific killing at the box office earlier this year, many producers have been churning out horror movies, in the hope of replicating Roño's feat.

Alas, most of those attempts have ended up as duds, which is what usually happens whenever cinematic copycats do their worst.

The xerox copies of Roño's super-chiller follow the same chilling, thrilling formula, but they lack one important ingredient: Roño himself.

The point is that "Feng Shui" clicked with viewers in a big way *because* it was made by Roño, with his unique sensibility, training, expertise and knowledge of audience psychology.

The copycats don't have that combination of attitudes and aptitudes, so their movies are hollow to the core. You want another scary super-hit? Get Chito Roño.

Unfortunately, like other significant filmmakers, Roño doesn't like repeating himself. But he *does* like adjusting the challenge to another medium, so ABS-CBN is truly fortunate to have gotten him to transfer his "talent for thrilling" from the movies to the TV screen, by way of Channel 2's new weeknight *teleserye*, "Spirits."

Other adjustments are also forthcoming: While the new series deals with the supernatural, it places its spooky situations within the new context of a youthful adventure show, reminiscent of Roño's "Spirit Warrior" films.

In fact, "Spirits" has been conceptualized by Roño as a prequel to those movies. It dramatizes the complex transition of children entering their teenage years, with the added enveiglement of their being given psychic powers. Even better, the youths are charged with having to figure out how to use their powers to help others.

For instance, Lloyd, the character played by **John Wayne Sace**, can see dead people. Liz (**Serena Dalrymple**) is a mind-reader.

Nato (**Jiro Manio**) speaks with dwarfs. Jesse (**Joseph Bitangcol**) can start fires. And Maya (**Michelle Madrigal**) can empathize completely with other people.

The group is led by Red (**Rayver Cruz**), and other teen characters include Gabby (**Maja Salvador**) and Thor (**Mico Aytona**).

Even better, the series boasts of gifted adult actors like **Ricky Davao, Lotlot de Leon** and **Cris Villanueva.**

It's clear that Chito Roño is doing everything he can to make "Spirits" a hit on TV, just like "Feng Shui" was on the big screen. Let's hope his calculated gambit works.

If the new *teleserye* clicks, it'll give its young stars' careers a big boost. So, they too have a lot riding on the show's success. —Maybe they can use their psychic powers to help the series' fortunes along?

Feedback

FROM **Ivy Rama** of Butuan City: "Your column on Filipinos' penchant for being funny was an eye-opener, especially when you went into the psychological dimension of our jokes and humor. I myself am most concerned about the dirty lyrics of songs that are now being played on the radio, or performed on TV.

"The lyrics engage in double-talk, but it's clear what they're really about, most of it related to sexual matters. Since children are watching and listening, these *double entendre* lyrics should not be heard on radio and TV, particularly during the day and in the early evening. Our radio stations and TV channels should be more vigilant and responsible . . ."

'Star Wars' trailer

FANS can now get a look at the trailer of "Star Wars, Episode III: Revenge of the Sith." It is being screened during intermission at theaters where "The Polar Express" is being shown.

"Revenge of the Sith" takes place two years after "Attack of the Clones." Anakin Skywalker and Padme Amidala are married. The Republic is at war with Count Dooku's Confederacy of Independent Systems, and Darth Sidious is preparing to make the final move that will ensure him control of the galaxy.

With its nearly endless supply of clone soldiers, the Republic is gaining ground against the Confederacy. Determined to avoid defeat, Dooku places a bounty on the Jedi Knights, who have already come under fire from the Republic itself.

When Anakin turns to the Dark Side of the Force and joins the genocidal purge, Obi-Wan Kenobi must fight to protect Padme and her children as he heads toward a tragic showdown with his former student.

Reprising their roles in the movie are **Hayden Christensen, Natalie Portman, Ewan McGregor, Christopher Lee** and **Samuel L. Jackson.**

EVERYONE wants to do a "Feng Shui," Kris Aquino's biggest hit to date.

'Hyper Drive'

IN A BEHIND-THE-SCENES "Ultimate Discovery" programming event, "Hyper Drive" on Discovery Channel (from today until Dec. 10 at 10 p.m.) shows viewers how master mechanics tear familiar machines down in order to build them back up to prototypes unlike any other.

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7. Alexander

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Monday, December 6, 2004

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2				Showbiz No. 1	Sandara's Romance	Get Backers	Ragnarok	Masked Rider Ryuki	TV Patrol	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Krystala	Hiram	It Might Be You	Lovers in Paris	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider	The Correspondents
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision	Next Stop			Network Forum		Teledyaryo		Muscom Cup 2003				Dial M	
ABC 5	Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	Art Is-Kool	Anima Ring Kaisho				Sentro	Friends	The Apprentice		Fear Factor		Big News	Pops!		Extreme Island	Billboard On-Air		
GMA 7	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Snow Angel (3:45 PM)		One Piece	Witch Hunter Robin	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin	Starstruck (8:45 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:15 PM) Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi		
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Island Life		Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Invader Zim	Entertainment Tonight	Just For Laughs		F1 & Sports Special				Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Wed TV	Hothline
IBC 13		V League				IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		Barrera vs Morales Bout				Retro TV	Global Family Series		IBC News Tonite	Linawin Natin	
Solar		Wow		Slamball		Rasiol	Zeta Project	Mucha Lucha!	Spiderman	Deep Space Nine		Witchblade		Twilight Zone		Survivor Series			
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Brother's Garcia	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia
MYX		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		The O.C.		Saturday Night Live		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	JKX	Meet My Folks		Queer Eye For A Straight Guy		Dateline		Nip/ Tuck	
Cinema One		Hindi Magbabago				Hubog				Booba				Sambahin Ang Ngalan Mo				Pinay Pie	
Studio 23	Bewitched	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	Batman Animated Series	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup	World's Craziest Video	Jake 2.0		Charmed		News Central	The West Wing		Travel Time
AXN		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		The Right Stuff II	Rated X	Rave	Rave	Boomtown		Fear Factor		The Shield		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	
Star World	When Hidden Cameras Attack	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Baywatch Hawaii		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Just Shoot Me	That 70s Show	Everybody Loves Raymond	Yes Dear/ Grounded For Life Series 4	Becker	Boston Public/ Road To Fame/ Three Stooges 75th Anniversary/ Bitches & Beauty Queen		Just Shoot Me	That 70s Show
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic	On Assignment	Killer Instincts		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Mission Wild	Africa From The Ground Up	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Killer Instincts/ Totally Wild	Totally Wild	Be The Creature	
Solar Sports		In This Corner		ISF China Super Grand Prix WD		Fight Sports Greatest Classics				Sagupaan		NBA Jam L904	NBA TV Daily	Phoenix vs. Portland (replay)					NBA Action
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! True Hollywood Story		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Area		Breathing Room	Genuine Article	Planet Parent	30 Minute Meals
HBO		Irreconcilable Differences				All Or Nothing				XXX				Enough				Evil Never Dies (10:55PM)	
Star Movies			Detention			Unsung Heroes (5:15 PM)				Holes				Courage Under Fire				Leo (10:55PM)	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Richie Rich	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Gundam Seed	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN		Pool/Snooker World Pool Master '04 Poland		NFL Football - Pittsburg vs Jacksonville						Eng. Premier League Highlights 04/05		Sportscenter Taiwan	UEFA Champions League Mag Shows	Sportscenter Taiwan	Premier Snooker League 03 Cardiff, Wales				Sportscenter Taiwan
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Maguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Un-talkative Bunny	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax				The Russian Job			Lucky 7 (5:45 PM)				The Hitcher II, I've Been Waiting			Spy Game				Greenmail	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Midsomer Murders: Garden Of Death				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Mysterious Ways		The District		Shattered City			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Mysterious Ways (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Monster Garage		Mythbusters		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Civilisations	
MTV Philippines		MTV Lokal		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Live		MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	Non-Stop Hits		MTV Brand New	MTV Fashionista	TRL		Cribs	Spring Break	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
Sports Plus		NFL Gameday	Porsche md 1&2	World Golf C'ship World Cup day3					Rookie Manual	Inside the PGA	Get A Grip	Bass Pro Shops		NFL Delayed Telecast					
EWTN	St. Matthew	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Benediction And Devotion	Story Keepers	Image Of God	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Light Of The East II	Voices On Virtue	EWTN Gallery	Threshold Of Hope Encore		Sunday Night Live With Fr. Groeschel		Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	G.K. Chesterton	Catholic Compass	

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'Shrek 2' an Oscar favorite

LOS ANGELES—"Shrek 2," the computer-animated blockbuster about a green ogre's quest for inner beauty, led the field of film nominees announced on Friday for the People's Choice Awards, selected by the public.

The storybook satire, which grossed $436 million at the US box office to rank as the year's biggest commercial hit, garnered nominations in virtually every movie category, including a nod for favorite film of 2004.

The other favorite-film nominees were Michael Moore's anti-Bush polemic "Fahrenheit 9/11," superhero adventures "The Incredibles" and "Spider-Man 2," and "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," a quirky tale of love and memory loss starring Jim Carrey.

"Shrek 2" also clinched nominations for favorite movie comedy, favorite film sequel, favorite animated film and favorite animated stars (Michael Myers as Shrek, Antonio Banderas as Puss in Boots and Eddie Murphy as the Donkey).

Public vote

"Spider-Man 2," the year's second-highest-grossing film with $373 million in US ticket sales, joined "Shrek 2" in the race for favorite sequel, along with "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," and "Kill Bill: Vol. 2."

"The Incredibles," the hit film about a family of superhero suburbanites, also received multiple nominations, including bids for favorite animated movie and animated film stars (Holly Hunter as Elastigirl and Samuel L. Jackson as Frozone).

Unlike the Oscars and other entertainment awards, in which nominees and winners are selected by industry peers, the People's Choice Awards are determined by the public.

In previous years, polling for the awards was conducted by the Gallup Organization. This year, Entertainment Weekly magazine recruited a group of 6,000 readers to nominate their favorites.

The top five selections for each category become nominees.

Winners will be chosen by the majority of online votes cast at the Web site http://www.PCAVote.co organizers said. Winners will be announced Jan. 9 in a ceremony televised on CBS. *Reuters*

DID YOU KNOW...

"Protein shakes and lifting weights and rode horses and did the boot camp thing for three weeks. Yeah, it was grand, man, I enjoyed it." Colin Farrell, on preparing for his role in the new Oliver Stone film, "Alexander." *AP*

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"Phenomenal!" -STEFAN HALLEY, HERO REALM
"Monumentally ambitious, Oliver Stone's Alexander accomplishes the twin objectives of the epic biopic." -ANNLEE ELLINGSON, BOXOFFICE MAGAZINE
"Boldly acted, absorbing and satisfying as a history lesson." -WILLIAM ARNOLD, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER
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ALEXANDER
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SM CINEMA movietime
moviepickoftheWeek
RENÉE ZELLWEGER HUGH GRANT COLIN FIRTH
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THE EDGE OF REASON
SAME BRIDGET. BRAND NEW DIARY.
Big Laughs Big Love Big Problem
whattowatch
ALEXANDER Subject to MTRCB RATING
SM Baguio Cinema 4
SM Cebu Cinema 8
SM Cagayan Cinema 1
SM Pampanga Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 3
SM Iloilo Cinema 3
SM Davao Cinema 1
BCUZ OF U Subject to MTRCB RATING
SM Dasmariñas Cinema 3
SM Davao Cinema 5
SM Batangas Cinema 2
SM Lucena Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 4
SM Cebu Cinema 7
SM Pampanga Cinema 1
THE INCREDIBLES MTRCB Rating: G
SM Iloilo Cinema 4
BUNNY GUARDS SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING
SM Davao Cinema 2
NATIONAL TREASURE MTRCB Rating: G
SM Iloilo Cinema 6
SM Pampanga Cinema 4
SM Marilao Cinema 3
SM Batangas Cinema 3
SM Davao Cinema 6
SM Bacoor Cinema 5
SM Cebu Cinema 1
SM Lucena Cinema 1
SM Dasmariñas Cinema 1
SM Baguio Cinema 1
THE POLAR EXPRESS MTRCB RATING: G
SM Batangas Cinema 3
SM Bacoor Cinema 7
SM Cebu Cinema 3
SANTA SANTITA MTRCB Rating: PG13
SM Bacoor Cinema 1
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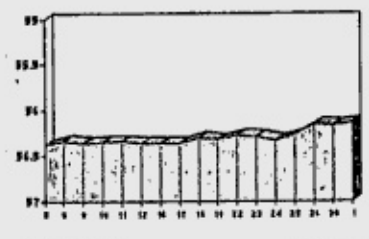
December inflation seen topping 8%

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



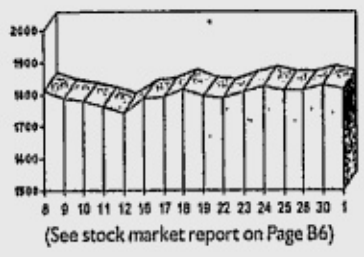
₱ 56.08 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 2, 2004

¥ 103.52 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 3, 2004

GOLD: $ 450.20-450.70
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 30, 2004

STOCK MARKET

Mining stocks seen taking trading limelight



IT LOOKS like another sluggish week ahead, but some analysts are optimistic mining and oil shares may continue to shine.

Mining shares surged last week on news the Supreme Court ruled to uphold the Mining Act, which allows foreign investments into the mineral exploration sector.

(See stock market report on Page B6)

However, Grace Cerdenia of online brokerage 2TradeAsia.com said the market might continue to trade within a narrow range this week "until investors see other significant catalysts."

She said sentiment might get a boost from talk of a cut in oil prices possibly this week and if Congress approves more revenue-raising reforms to aid plugging the government's budget deficit.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange composite index (Phisix) rose a mere 2.89 points to 1816.99 week-on-week.

The stock market only traded three days last week after bank clearing and stock trading were suspended last Friday due to super typhoon warnings. There was no trading last Monday due to a national holiday.

Despite the shortened week, the mining index soared 511.9 points or 24 percent last week to 2638.61.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday overturned its previous ruling that prevented foreign companies to fully own mining projects.

"The pro-business decision of the Supreme Court may provide some incentives to trade. However, we still expect the main index to just continue consolidating with a positive bias in the coming sessions. Inspiration may also come from a strong overseas market," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

MINING/ B6

By Doris C. Dumlao

PRICES of consumer goods are seen shooting up further in December to more than 8 percent as food supply bottlenecks caused by the recent typhoons aggravate pressures from Christmas spending sprees.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the year-on-year inflation rate this month would likely rise past the BSP's forecast of 7.2-7.6 percent for November using the 1994 base year for the consumer price index (CPI).

"Clearly, it will be higher," Buenaventura said.

"I suppose it (typhoon) will have an impact on food prices, but that's transitory," he said.

In October, the national inflation rate hit a five-year high of 7.1 percent, bringing the year-to-date average to 5.1 percent.

"Fortunately, oil prices have softened," the BSP chief said.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said the institution would first see the report on the damage caused by the typhoons to quantify its impact.

Over the past two weeks, the country had been battered by a series of weather disturbances--storm "Unding," tropical depression "Winnie" and most recently, typhoon "Yoyong."

In a separate interview, Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas estimated that the supply side disruptions caused by the recent typhoons would jack up the inflation rate by one or two percentage points.

Historically, Ravelas said such weather disturbances had a significant impact on the country's inflation rate, as food comprised a large part of the consumer price index.

"It affects not only the price of the food products but also transportation costs. Services are disrupted so there's usually a sudden surge in prices," Ravelas said.

"Add this to demand pressures from Christmas spending, so I think inflation in December will reach 8 to 8.5 percent (using the 1994 base year)," Ravelas said.

For November, Ravelas said he was expecting the inflation rate to reach 7.5-8 percent.

The biggest threat to consumer prices in the country has so far been the skyrocketing oil prices. Even a visiting International Monetary Fund mission had expressed concern over the sharp rise in inflation in the Philippines, suggesting the need for monetary tightening soon.

The BSP has conceded that its 4-5 percent inflation target range would be breached this year and next, but was expected to stay on track with the three-year target range in 2006. It hinted at the need to tighten its monetary policy by January next year, at the earliest.

Meanwhile, the US Federal Reserve is expected to raise its key interest rate by another 25 basis points to 2 percent when it meets on Dec. 14. The BSP has so far desisted from following the US Fed's tightening, keeping its own rates at the same level since July last year.

Palace orders bidding of MRT-3 extension project

By Clarissa S. Batino

MALACAÑANG has decided to bid out the extension of the Metro Rail Transit system from North Avenue in Quezon City to the Balintawak Monument in Caloocan City, a senior transportation official said.

The Palace has also decided to scrap a supplemental agreement signed by the government years ago with Fil-Estate-led Metro Rail Transit Corp. that called for the awarding the project to the consortium.

MRT-3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso said the Palace had directed the Department of Transportation and Communication to bid out a new build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract for the five-kilometer link-up of MRT-3 to the Light Railway Transit (LRT) Line 1 in Monumento.

He said the group of FF Cruz & Co. has already submitted a proposal to the DOTC. Fil Systems Corp. has also offered to do the railway project for $230 million.

"It is Malacañang that has decided and ordered the DOTC about three weeks ago to come up with the bidding terms. We were told that another justice department opinion is no longer necessary," Lastimoso said in an interview.

MRTC, a consortium including Ayala Corp., had said in October that it asked Malacañang and the justice department to reconsider its offer to undertake the expansion.

MRTC president Robert John Sobrepeña said that allowing the consortium to do the link-up of MRT-3 to the LRT Line 1 would be cheaper and faster as the group had proposed to do the extension for $191 million.

The MRTC official warned that if the government would rebid the project, it would be more expensive and take a longer time to complete.

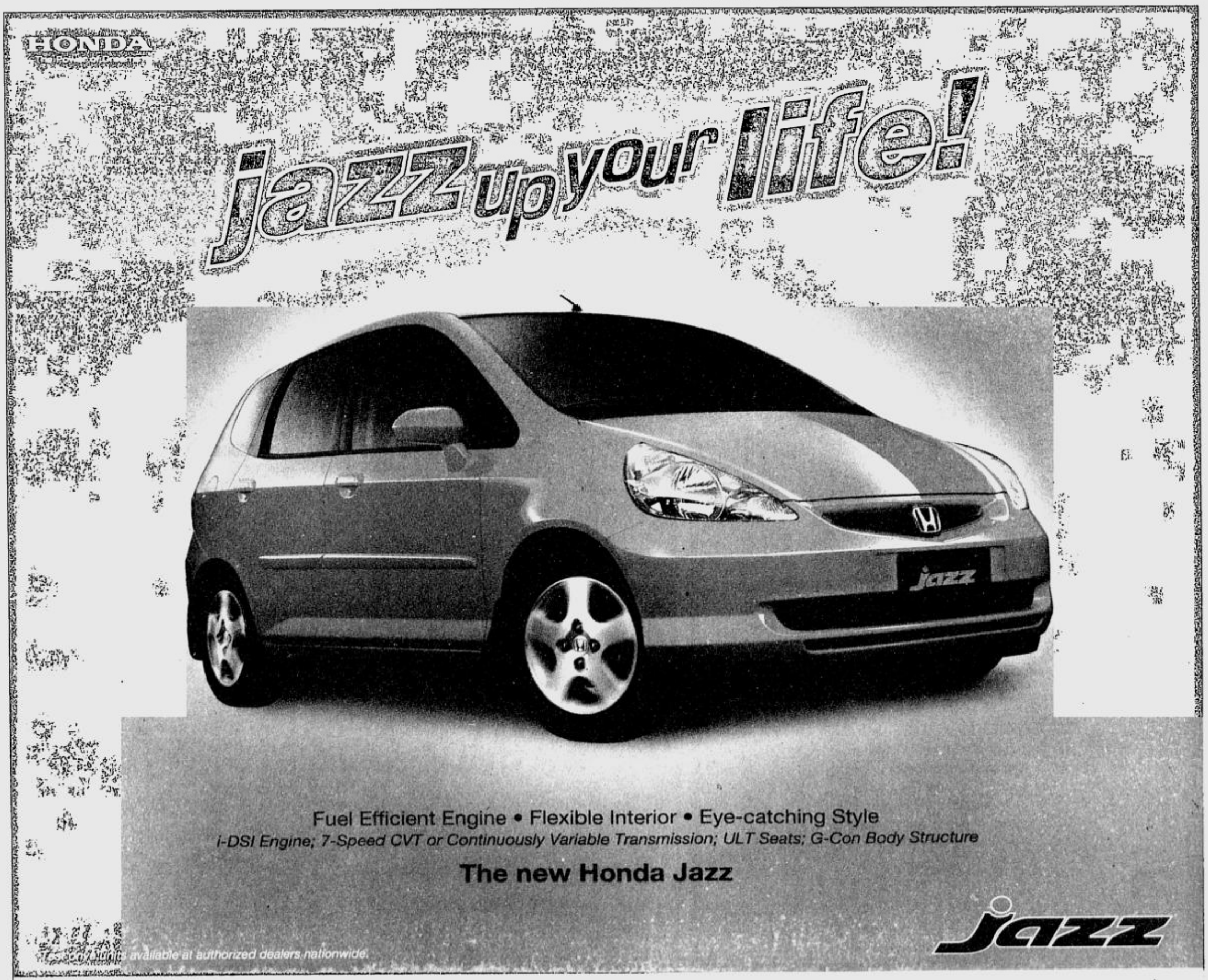
Lastimoso said the FF Cruz group had a different design for the project, which could be the reason why the bid was higher. He said MRTC could participate in the bidding.

The much-delayed project is essential to complete the metro railway loop. It would ease commuters' travel and allow them to move from one line to another with greater ease.

LRT 2, which runs from Santolan in Pasig to Recto Ave. in Manila, would be connected to LRT 1 before year's end through the Doroteo Jose station. LRT 2 connects with MRT 3 through the latter's Cubao station.

Close to 800,000 commuters use the three railway systems each day and of these, 400,000

PALACE/ B5



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Revisiting economic diplomacy

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

ONE OF the major reasons we can fondly look back to the 1990s as a time when our country enjoyed internal economic stability and dynamism was that President Ramos had redirected our embassies, consulates and honorary consuls abroad to put top priority on economic diplomacy then. That is, apart from ensuring the welfare of overseas Filipino workers wherever they were deployed, our foreign missions were directed to put their energies and resources to seeking and seizing opportunities for increased trade, tourism, investment, development cooperation (a euphemism for official development assistance or ODA), and economic intelligence. The last refers to the gathering of information from both formal and informal sources that may have relevance to our economic opportunities abroad. This includes identifying economic policies and measures in our embassies' host countries that may be material to international trade and investment negotiations (e.g. in WTO).

Beyond that, our foreign missions were also directed to tap groups of highly-skilled expatriate Filipino professionals to assist in the efforts to upgrade our technological capabilities through various Science and Technology Advisory Councils (STACs) that were organized in key foreign posts abroad. Programs to attract highly skilled Filipinos to come back home either temporarily or permanently were put in place. Not a few expatriate Filipino experts did come back to take advantage of both the incentives offered for their return, and of the increased attractiveness of working in their home country due to a new-found economic dynamism.

Economic intelligence

I recall how in my days in the government, I was struck at how some of the visits I received from foreign officials and diplomats made me feel like my guests were engaged in some kind of an intelligence-gathering exercise. I was particularly impressed at how the aides of certain visiting foreign officials usually appeared to be taking copious notes of our meeting. A later incident made me realize how these notes were being made good use of by my visitors.

In one official visit I made to a foreign counterpart in his home country, I was surprised at how my host brought up a particular subject I had almost forgotten about, that came up in an earlier visit to me not by that official, but by another colleague in his government! It became clear to me then that information gathered in courtesy calls to our officials by foreign visitors had been effectively shared across ministries within their government. I wondered then whether our diplomats and government officials traveling abroad had the same objectives in mind as they visited government counterparts abroad. This was exactly the implication of President Ramos' directive on economic diplomacy, if it was to be taken to heart by all concerned.

New foreign policy directions

In a recent forum, the Ateneo Center for European Studies brought together government officials and intellectuals for a two-day roundtable discussion on world trends and new directions for Philippine foreign policy. One of the major outcomes of the discussions was the recognition of the need to refocus our foreign policy on economic diplomacy.

It is not enough that President Arroyo acts as salesperson for the country in her visits abroad, just as President Ramos was acknowledged to be the country's most effective salesman in his time. Everyone down the line, from our government officials visiting abroad to our diplomats deployed abroad must do just as well.

Non-traditional markets

Both short-term and longer-term opportunities could shape the nature of our economic diplomacy efforts in the years ahead. In the short term, the opportunities presented by China's rapid economic growth are already before us, and have already benefited us to some extent. That we exported more to China last year than we imported from them makes us one of the few countries in the region that are actually getting a net benefit—so far—from the much-feared China juggernaut. This will not necessarily happen by itself without conscious efforts on the part of government, particularly in our diplomatic initiatives with that country.

Similar opportunities remain untapped in emerging economies in Central and Eastern Europe. We have remained too focused on Western Europe, which has actually sold on much of our exports to them farther east, when we can deal with these countries more directly ourselves. The same is true with Cen-

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PIC to put up cold storage facilities

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Development Corp. is planning to shell out at least P1.2 billion to put up a chain of cold storage and food terminal facilities, which are hoped to improve food production and harvesting across the country.

NDC will undertake the project through its yet-to-be incorporated subsidiary, Philippine Infrastructure Corp.

Trade and industry consultant Noel Kintanar said the so-called 'cold chain' would cover food producing regions from Northern Luzon to Mindanao.

"At least six cold storage facilities costing P200 million each will be built in Cordillera, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Western Visayas and either Northern or Southern Mindanao," Kintanar said.

The projects are expected to help improve storage and shipment of food products and, consequently, help establish stable supplies, he said.

Kintanar said NDC had yet to identify the specific project sites. He added that the cold chain project was still in the planning stage.

This was the second project lined up for PIC, which aims to put up a P100-billion portfolio of 10 projects within six years.

The first project identified for PIC was the P10-billion enhancement of the South Luzon Expressway-Southern Tagalog Arterial Road road systems.

The package covers the rehabilitation of the Alabang viaduct, the widening of Slex from Alabang to Calamba in Laguna, and the connection of Slex from Calamba to Star in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Foreign business groups have complained that poor infrastructure facilities in the country made doing business here less competitive than in other countries.

For instance, the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines had asked the government to allow 100-percent foreign ownership of all public utilities as a way of developing infrastructure.

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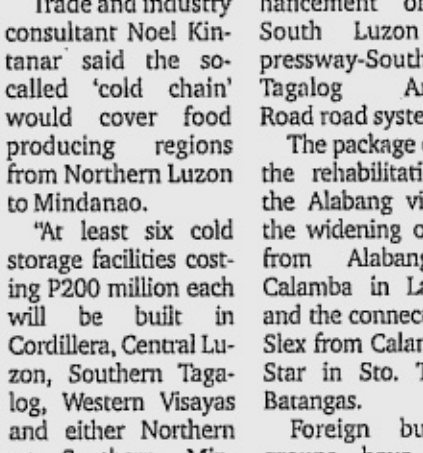
The creators of iPod is now introducing the new iMac G5



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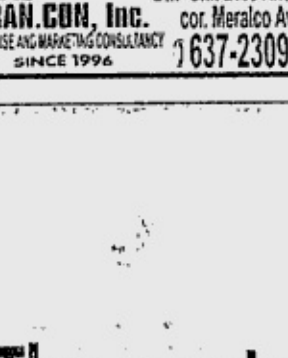

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US Treasury exec urges opening up of RP banking sector

By Michelle V. Remo

A US Treasury official urged the Philippines to speed up efforts to develop its banking industry to take advantage of the expected increase in global demand for financial services.

Randal Quarles, US Treasury assistant secretary for international affairs, said latest discussions by members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) were centered on the potential boost to economic growth by liberalizing the financial sector.

Citing a World Bank study, he said developing countries with open financial sectors experienced higher economic growth compared with those whose banking industry lacked foreign direct investments.

For this reason, Quarles said, the United States was encouraging WTO members, including the Philippines, to develop their financial sectors, such as by adopting stable and transparent regulations.

"A healthier and more efficient financial sector is also critical to assuring long-term growth," Quarles said in a press briefing last Friday.

The US treasury official met last week with Philippine economic officials and legislators to get an update on the local economy, particularly on the fiscal problem confronting the government.

He suggested that the Philippine government address more firmly the issues concerning the huge nonperforming loans (NPLs) of banks that have been a drag on their liquidity, and the relatively weak supervisory power of regulators.

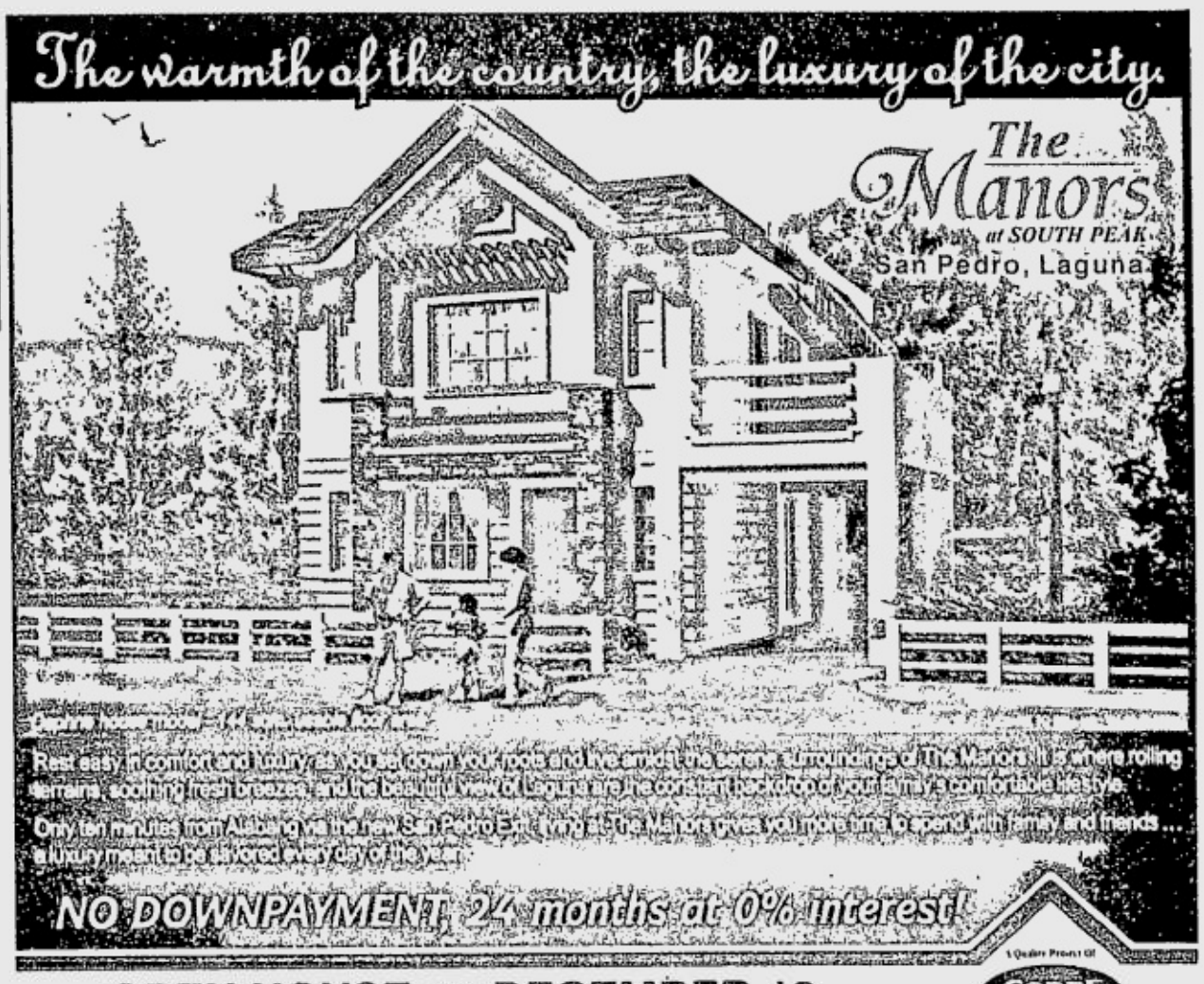
The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas earlier reported that the NPL ratio of universal and commercial banks in September slightly rose to 13.9 percent, from 13.86 percent the previous month.

The higher NPL ratio was a result of the 0.3-percent increase in NPLs, and the slight drop in total loan portfolio of banks.

Quarles recommended that the Bankgo Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) push more aggressively for the granting of enough legal protection to bank regulators so that they could act appropriately on insolvent financial institutions without fear of facing law suits.

One of the legislative agenda of the BSP is to put more teeth into its power to intervene in distressed banks by protecting regulators from suits in the exercise of their duties.

This requires amendments to the general banking law, and the charters of the BSP and Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.



END OF ERA

Meralco eases toward open access

By Abigail L. Ho

AS ITS monopoly on end-user power supply comes to an inevitable end, the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. said it would begin implementing the open access regulation upon removal of all the cross-subsidies except the lifeline rate discount for marginalized customers.

Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez said the power distributor was well aware of Meralco's changing role in the deregulated power sector. This was why the power firm's board recently passed a resolution that would allow the start of open access by October 2005.

Open access will give electricity end-users the option to choose their own power supplier, thus limiting Meralco's franchise obligation to distribution services.

The Energy Regulatory Commission in October ordered the removal of 40 percent of inter-class cross-subsidies for Meralco customers. The remaining 60 percent would be scrapped by October next year.

Cross-subsidy removal is one of the conditions set by Republic Act No. 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira), for the implementation of open access.

Lopez said Meralco was supportive of the government's thrust to fully implement the Epira provisions, particularly now that it no longer had to worry about $235 million worth of loans bunching up from this year to 2006.

Meralco last month secured its creditors' approval to refinance $235 million in loans, extending the maturity dates falling in 2004 up to 2006, by another seven years, or up to 2011.

The power distributor's creditor-banks included 32 institutions from the Philippines, China, Germany, India, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and the United States.

"With the refinancing out of the way, Meralco can concentrate on adjusting to the new environment brought about by the Epira," Lopez said. "The recent completion of Meralco's debt refinancing is the first step toward restoring Meralco's credit normalcy, although it imposes an additional interest burden on our shareholders."

Interest expense cannot be passed on to customers. This has to be shouldered fully by Meralco's stockholders.

"Meralco missed some market windows for cheaper funds due to delays in certain creditor consents, but chose to conclude the refinancing agreement to help enhance the country's investment climate, particularly in the energy sector," Lopez explained.

Meralco's recent refinancing deal enhanced not only the firm's credit standing but also the investors' perception of the local power sector.

How's your English?

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

PETER Wallace writes, "English speaking (in the Philippines) is mostly a myth ... while English capability is still widely acknowledged as one of the key advantages of its workers, this is mostly a myth based on historical record, not current reality."

He is not the only one worried that the Filipino is losing his competitive edge as the Chinese, Koreans and Taiwanese are frantically learning English.

But I disagree. Filipinos started learning English in 1901 when the US military transport SS Thomas docked in Manila with 540 American schoolteachers (lovingly remembered in history as the Thomasites).

Their mission and those of the thousands who followed was to teach English and the ways of democracy. They drew up a school curriculum with English as the medium of instruction, supplanting Spanish.

When I entered first grade in 1932, all the textbooks were in English. Even the national anthem was in English. Every morning before class, we sang, "Land of the morning, child of the sun returning..."—after the Star Spangled Banner, of course. The Filipinos had become the Americans' little brown brothers.

In a surge of nationalism after we became independent in 1946, the medium of instruction in public grade schools was changed to Filipino (Tagalog). As a result, graduates struggled in high school and college where English remained the medium of instruction.

Now, the Education Department is horrified that half of our public grade school teachers flunked an English proficiency test. All of a sudden, there is a renewed interest in teaching English to our students in all levels.

Nevertheless, the Philippines is still the world's third largest English speaking country, next to the US and the UK. Don't take my word for it. Ask the United Nations.

You can play golf all over Asia. But it is only in the Philippines, anywhere in the Philippines, where the caddy (usually a girl working her way through night school) will give your line of putt in perfect English ("Two balls right. Slow green. Don't look up, sir.")

My friend Tim lives in Sydney and comes to Manila on business. On his last trip, I asked him if our neighbors were really catching up. He said, "Not until the cab drivers in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Hong Kong can argue with me in perfect English like the cab drivers in Manila do."

English is very important to me, being an insurance broker. It is the language of insurance and reinsurance, domestically and internationally. Policies are in English. The insurance code was lifted from the codes of California and New York. The rules of the Insurance Commission are in English. All written communications are in English. All jurisprudence is in English. Happily, I do not see any deterioration of spoken and written English in the insurance industry.

In fact, the quality of English used by insurance agents has improved tremendously over the past 50 years. An agent used to get along quite well with grade school English. Not anymore. Today, with keen competition among agents with college degrees, no one can do well in insurance selling unless he has a good command of written and spoken English.

That our neighbors will eventually speak and write English as well as we do does not worry me. The Filipino—with his diligence, initiative, imagination, and innate good nature—will still be highly competitive.

Above all, the more our neighbors learn English, the better we can communicate with each other. Our part of the world will be far better for it. I wish our neighbors well in their march to English proficiency. But they have a long, long way to go.

Businesses worldwide seen to be optimistic

OWNERS of mid-sized companies worldwide, especially in the Philippines, are more optimistic about the economy than last year—their increased confidence riding mainly on the expectation of an investment-led growth.

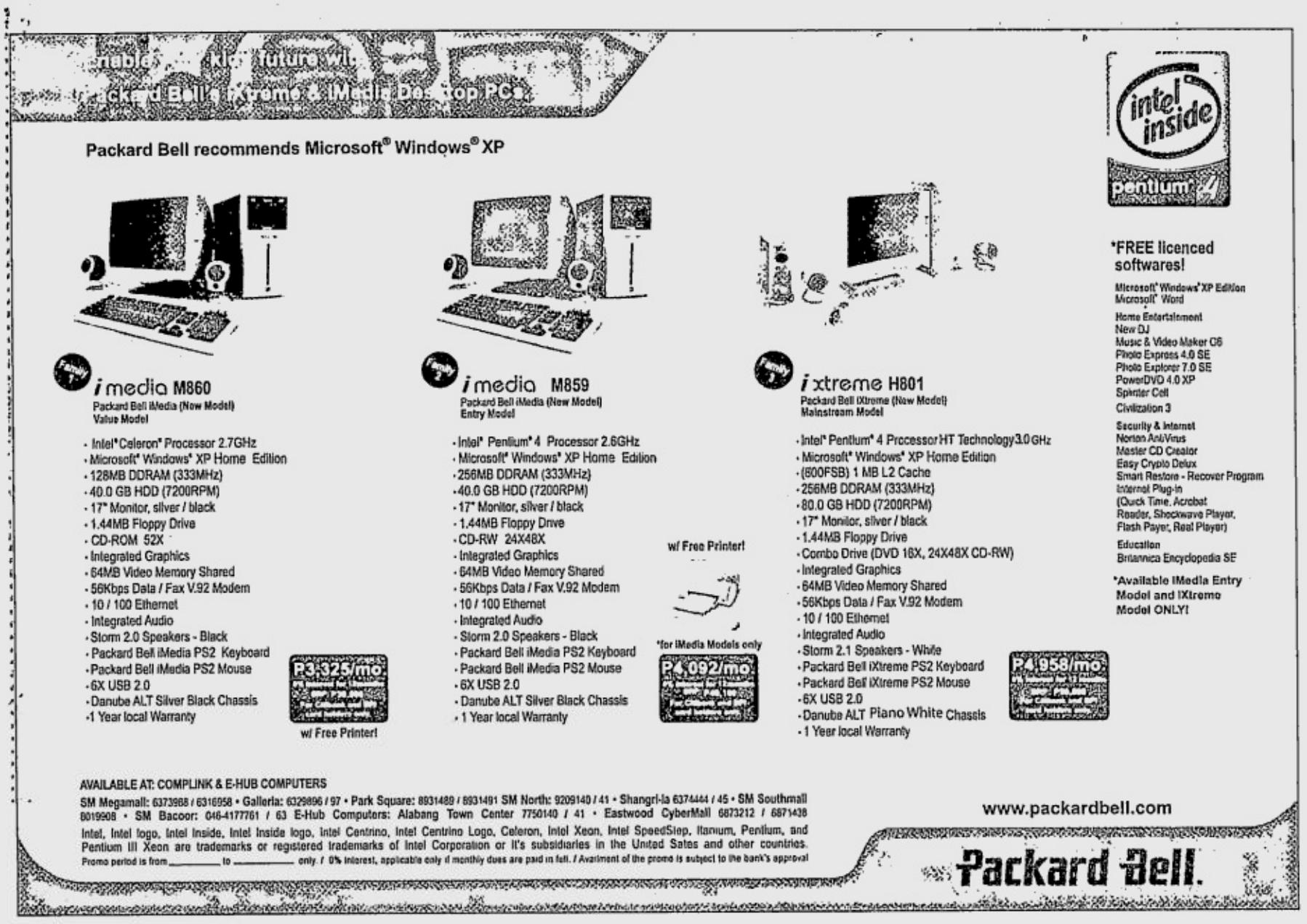
According to the International Business Owners Survey, conducted by research firm Grant Thornton, 13 out of the 24 countries surveyed expressed more optimism this year, with an increase of more than 10 percent in their optimism/pessimism balance.

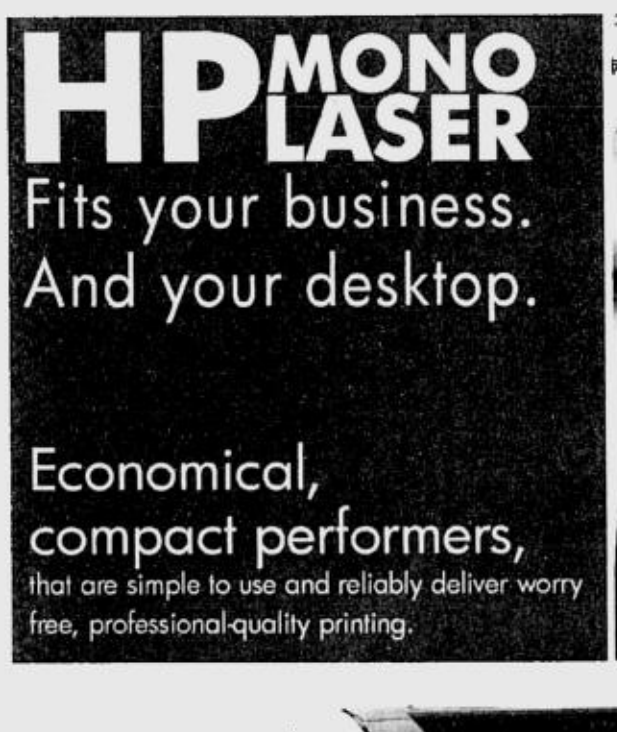
This balance is the difference between the number of optimistic and pessimistic respondents.

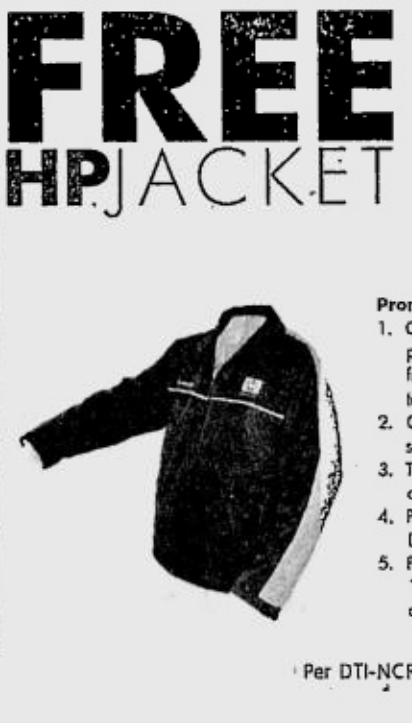
The survey was conducted among 6,300 owners of mid-size firms from 24 countries during the third quarter of 2004.

Ireland posted the highest surge in optimism compared to last year (up by 72 points to +79 percent), followed by Poland (up by 53 points to +21 percent), Singapore (up by 92 points to +62 percent), and the Philippines (up by 51 points to +50 percent).

There is also a wide expectation that profitability will rise. The global average has increased to +45 percent from +42 percent last year. India is by far the most optimistic in terms of profitability at +75 percent, followed by the Philippines and New Zealand at +62 percent.







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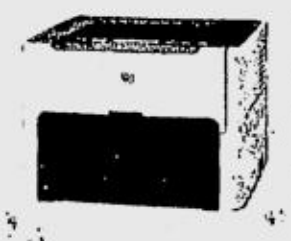

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CAP-itol disconnections

THE SOBREPEÑAS of CAP may be financially hamstrung, but their lobbying instincts apparently remain intact.

The father and son were seen Nov. 1 by the tomb of Diosdado Macapagal at the Libingan ng mga Bayani while the late president's daughter, now President Macapagal-Arroyo, was visiting for the traditional Halloween pilgrimage.

Not only was the President there, so was Fe Barin, the chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission that is now cracking the regulatory whip on College Assurance Plan's faltering educational program.

It is not clear whether the Sobrepeñas were there accidentally, or that somebody arranged to have them to meet both the President and the SEC chief.

When asked by the SEC press corps about the Nov. 1 meeting, Barin appeared taken aback before she flashed her trademark frown and moved on to take another question, according to one reporter.

However, the SEC chief did clarify that the graveyard encounter had merely been a "chance meeting," said another reporter.

Despite the sepulchral engagement, Barin, to her credit, still refused to budge on the SEC stand that CAP show actual money, not entangled land titles, before giving CAP the license to sell educational plans and thus print more cash.

As if their regulatory headaches were not enough, another front, this time at the legislature, has opened up.

Upon a resolution filed by Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay, the House committee on banks and financial institutions has scheduled a hearing today precisely to clear the financial and Halloween mysteries surrounding the pre-need pioneer.

The House hearings would also give the Sobrepeñas the chance to face the public and lay out the road map for CAP, if there is one, instead of assigning a mere vice president to do all the dodging and spinning for them.

Backfire

CITIBANK has a major PR crisis within the power sector industry because of its US-style firing of one of its key vice presidents, Ma. Aurora Ceniza, who was dismissed on the spot in March 2003 because her position had been declared redundant.

Ironically, Ceniza, 40, had earlier declined a more lucrative offer from the competing ABN Amro Bank and relocate to Singapore out of what she said was loyalty to Citibank.

She was, after all, the Citibank's relationship manager for the multibillion-peso power and energy sector accounts, having headed the Napocor business planning/natural gas department before Citibank spotted and lured her for her rainmaking talents.

What made the firing worse was that Citibank thereafter treated Ceniza not as an ex-Citibanker who brought in more than P840 million in net revenues to the bank but like a common credit card delinquent, allegedly subjecting her to a barrage of phone calls and even sending her a threat letter against a disputed P4,000 credit card bill.

Now, Ceniza has bounced back from her 2003 depression and resurrected as the chief of staff of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., the asset-rich government corporation.

Not only did she file an illegal dismissal case against the multinational, the well-positioned bureaucrat has even rounded up testimonials from industry heavyweights such as Federico Lopez of First Generation and former Napocor president Guido Alfredo Delgado to support the illegal dismissal case she filed against the American bank.

Incidentally, the testimonials and case filings make very good reading, portraying an unknown, dark side of the suit brigade.

Heard through the grapevine

DESPITE howling winds and lashing rains brought by super-typhoon Yoyong, Price Smart chair William Go was seen greeting guests and enjoying himself Thursday evening during the inauguration of Cost U Less, the competing warehouse store along C-5.

Go claimed he was merely checking the competition.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com; or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Palace orders . . .

From page B1

board the MRT 3 line. The completion of the loop is seen to increase ridership.

Malacañang had earlier declared the extension of MRT-3 to connect to the LRT 1 line as one of the administration's priority projects.

President Arroyo had given the go-ahead for the construction of the MRT-3 extension more than two years ago. But the issue as to whether MRTC should do it or have another group undertake the extension had stalled the project.

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Mondragon, URPHI lose SEC permits

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has revoked the permits of listed firm Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. (URPHI) and leisure firm Mondragon Leisure and Resorts Corp.. (MLRC) to sell securities, government sources said.

It has also suspended Mondragon International Philippines Inc. from selling securities.

URPHI, in a disclosure last week, said it has not received any notice from the SEC regarding the revocation of its registration.

Last week, it said it would file its 2003 annual report with the SEC.

Last October, the SEC's corporation finance department warned MIPI and MLRC officials that they would lose their respective permits to sell securities if they failed to settle penalties.

The MIPI received penalties amounting to P175,000 for failing to submit its 2003 annual report and 2004 first quarter report.

Also, the SEC-CFD served a notice of hearing to MLRC, MIPI's fully-owned subsidiary. SEC records showed that the company failed to pay its penalties from May to July this year for failing to submit reports for 2002 and 2001. The company's penalties by May had reached P177,512.

The MIPI postponed its September stockholder's meeting to give way to talks with potential investors, according to Jose Antonio U. Gonzales, Mondragon chair and chief executive officer.

The talks hopefully would lead to normalized operations at the 240-hectare Mimosa Leisure Estate. The meeting was moved to March 14 next year. This was the fourth time since last year that Gonzalez called for the postponement of the stockholders meeting. State-led Clark Development Corp. (CDC) took over the Mimosa estate in 1999 after Mondragon failed to settle back rentals with CDC and other liabilities with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Bureau of Internal Revenue. Mondragon also owed creditors some P7 billion.

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of December 6, 2004

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,000,000	1,150,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,200,000
Baguio Country Club	530,000	580,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	70,000
Camp John Hay	-	180,000
Canlubang	450,000	490,000
Canyon Woods	-	160,000
Capitol Hills	100,000	120,000
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,900,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	140,000
Club Filipino	100,000	120,000
Eagleridge "A"	-	270,000
Eagleridge "B"	-	300,000
Eagleridge "C"	-	330,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	130,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	200,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	220,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	180,000	200,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,500,000	-
Manila Polo	2,100,000	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	300,000	380,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	350,000
Metroclub "A"	120,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	120,000	180,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	-	250,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	-	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	190,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	350,000
Quezon City Sports Club	140,000	180,000
Rockwell	-	300,000
Spa & Lodge	500,000	650,000
Sta. Elena "A"	Please Call	1,500,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	200,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	730,000
The Palms Country Club	-	550,000
Valle Verde (individual)	100,000	150,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	-	200,000
Valley Golf	220,000	240,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,200,000	6,500,000

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang Country Club "B"	1.2M	-
Alta Vista	270K	
Baguio Country Club	550K	
Camp John Hay	180K	
Capitol Hills "A"	105K	
Celebrity Sports Club	145K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	220K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "B"	290K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "C"	280K	
Forest Hills "A"	110K	
Makati Sports Club	200K	
Mt. Malarayat "B"	please call	250K
Manila Golf Club - Indv.	11.3M	9.3M
Manila Polo Club	2.3M	please call
Manila Southwoods "A"		370K
Manila Yacht Club	350K	
Orchard Golf Club "A"	190K	
Orchard Golf Club "B"	250K	
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350K	
Quezon City Sports Club "B"	145K	
Riviera Golf Club "A"	80K	
Rockwell Leisure Club	300K	
Royale Tagaytay	please call	
Sherwood Hills "B"	80K	
Sherwood Hills "C"		please call
Sta. Elena Golf Club "A"	1.5M	
The Country Club at TH		320K
Tagaytay Midlands	please call	650K
The Palms Country Club	550K	
Valley Golf Club		220K
Wack Wack Golf Club	please call	please call

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,150,000	-
Alta Vista A/B*	-	220,000*
Baguio Country Club	Pls. Call	500,000
Calatagan Golf	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	230,000	-
Canlubang Golf	-	420,000
Canyon Woods	170,000	100,000
Capitol Hills	130,000	-
Celebrity Sports	140,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	250,000/300,000*/Pls. Call**	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	140,000/250,000*	160,000*/210,000**
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	11,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	10,000,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	350,000/540,000*
Makati Sports Club	Pls. Call	185,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	180,000/200,000*	100,000
Mimosa C2/C3*	220,000	280,000*
Mimosa Golf Ind.	-	130,000
Mt. Malarayat A/B*	190,000	300,000*
Orchard A/B*/C**	200,000/400,000**	325,000**
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	120,000/160,000*/200,000**	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	290,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/B*/C**	70,000/110,000*/180,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,400,000/1,600,000*	-
The Palms Country Club	530,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	340,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	650,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Valle Verde Ind	140,000	100,000
Wack Wack Golf	Pls. Call	6,200,000

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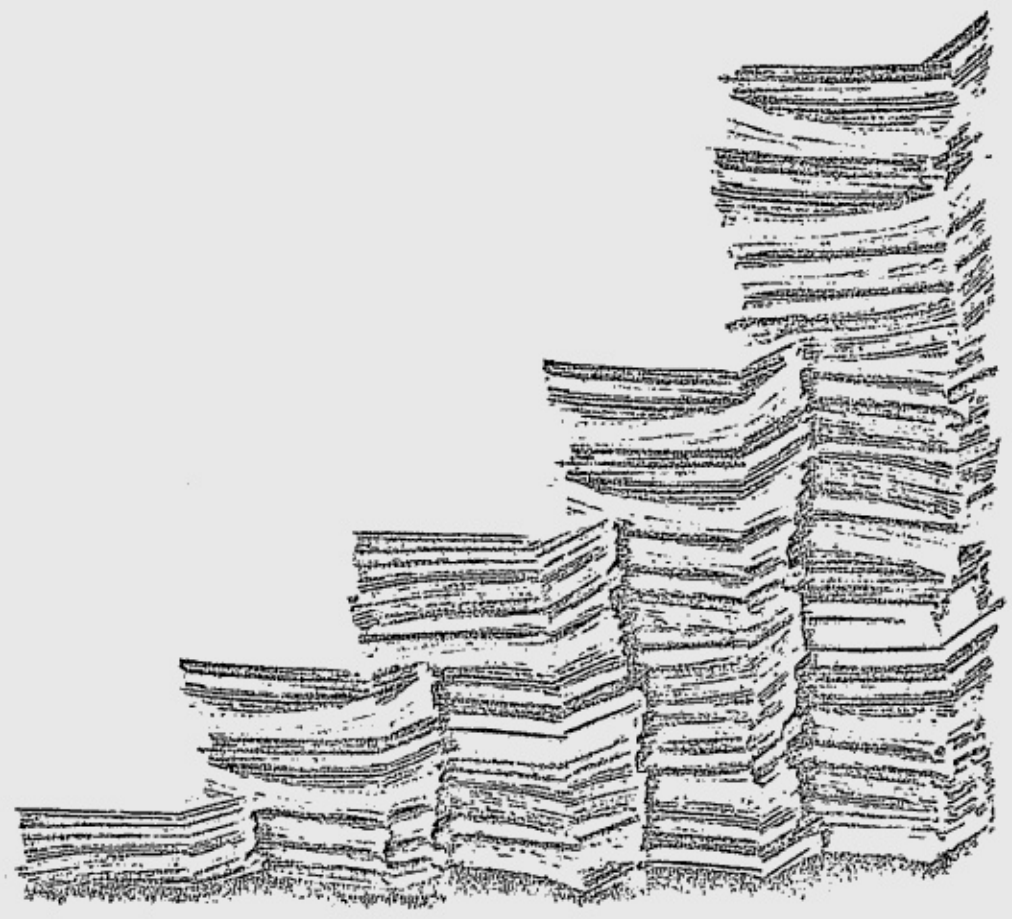

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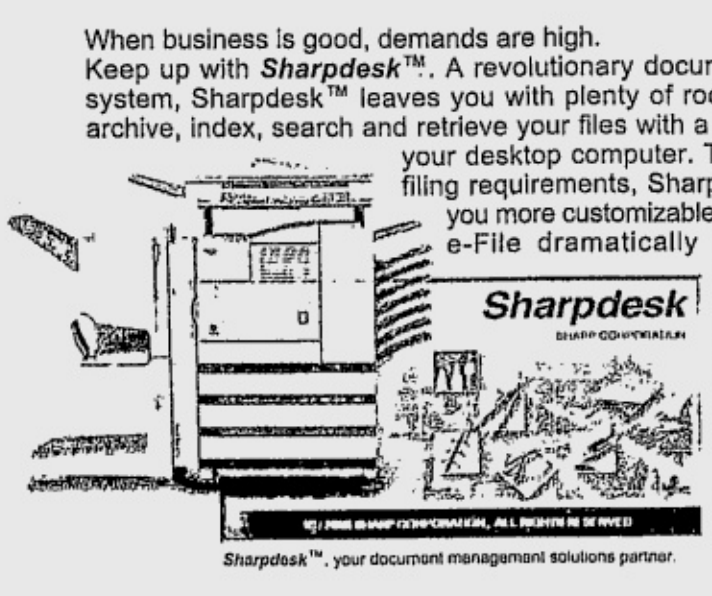

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(As of December 2, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	33,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	23.75	23.75	23.75	23.75	656,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50.5	48.5	48.5	564,900
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	510
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51	51	51	29,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	5,330,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28.5	29	28	28	119,900
Philippine National Bank	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	500
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	13,000
Security Bank Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	263,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	22.75	22.75	46,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1800	1815	1800	1815	1,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19	19	19	19	35,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.86	1.92	1.84	1.88	15,148,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	990	990	975	980	17,200
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	188,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.034	0.033	0.034	800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.75	2.55	2.55	4,985,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1350	1360	1345	1345	109,880
Ivantage Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.79	0.8	7,840,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	80,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.75	16.5	15.75	16.5	160,800
Manila Electric Co. B	25	26.5	25	26	3,434,500
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.2	1,964,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Abolitz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	517,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.22	1.16	1.22	1,059,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,280,000
Supercity Rity Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	4,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	5,110,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	513,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	32	32	31.5	31.5	86,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	136,800
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	40,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57	56.5	57	9,700
San Miguel Corp. B	73.5	74.5	73.5	74.5	1,411,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	1,140,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	30,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.5	1,123,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	40,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.2	3.35	3.2	3.35	4,943,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.62	554,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	250,000,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	16	16	15.75	15.75	2,100
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.7	0.74	0.69	0.73	55,440,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.15	1,860,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,260,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.95	3.9	3.9	2,905,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	1,300,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	6,600,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	1,125,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28	30.5	28	30.5	4,016,700
Ionics Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	691,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.75	3.75	3.4	3.4	2,570,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.44	1.56	1.44	1.5	1,440,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	3,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	305,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	13,140,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	30,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	80,000
Unwide Holdings Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	2,370,000
Weltex Industries Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	6,850,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	740,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	8,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.65	0.6	0.65	5,830,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.9	0.94	790,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	140,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	19	19	18.75	18.75	216,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Cc	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7.1	2,116,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	900,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	6,700,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	3,200,000
Eib Realty Developers Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	40,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,220,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	1,250,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	300,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	14,700,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	650,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.52	1.4	1.5	1,333,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	6,330,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	230,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.33	430,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.014	0.015	0.013	0.014	1,841,100,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4	4.05	3.75	3.95	2,191,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	80,000
Benguet Corp. B	4	4	4	4	1,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	168,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.27	0.245	0.27	93,390,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.31	0.39	0.31	0.36	155,040,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.021	0.02	0.021	2,334,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.03	0.026	0.028	2,233,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.006	0.0048	0.0055	1,774,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.44	0.56	0.44	0.56	22,520,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.55	0.72	0.55	0.72	38,640,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.16	0.175	0.15	0.16	4,310,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	5,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0048	0.0046	0.0046	62,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0046	0.005	0.0046	0.005	49,000,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.6	129,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.225	0.235	0.22	0.23	1,830,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	7,068,530	62,793,325.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	533,972,680	681,952,215.00
PRO	39,739,000	70,946,750.00
Mining	8,500,100,000	266,510,120.00
OIL	125,959,000	1,371,350.00
GRAND TOTALS	9,206,839,210	1,083,573,760.00
AVERAGES		
Bank & Fin Svc	525.06	DOWN 7.02
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,837.80	UP 6.84
PRO	666.48	UP 0.58
Mining	2,638.61	UP 433.42
OIL	1.82	UP 0.11
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,152.39	UP 5.10
Composite	1,816.99	UP 0.52

NO. OF ADVANCES: 52; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 38; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 119; NO. OF TRADES: 5,301

DISCLOSURES

SAN Miguel Corp. will issue additional shares equivalent to 10 percent of its outstanding capital stock. Shareholders will have the preemptive right to subscribe to these shares at a ratio of one share for every 10 shares owned. The company also declared a cash dividend of P0.35 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of Dec. 17 and will be payable on Jan. 24. Also, its annual stockholders' meeting will be on May 17, 2 p.m. with stockholders as of March 23 entitled to vote during that meeting.

* * *

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission approved **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.**'s amendments in its Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws that include the increase in the number of its directors to 15 from 11 and the reduction in its trust committee members to 5 from 6.

* * *

RECORD date for **House of Investments Inc.**'s declared cash dividend is on Dec. 16.

* * *

Tanduay Distillers Inc. (not Tanduay Holdings Inc. as previously stated) declared a cash dividend of P1 per share in favor of its stockholders of record as of Nov. 30 and will be paid not later than Dec. 15. Tanduay Distillers is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tanduay Holdings. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Mining stocks . . .

From page B1

Meanwhile, Cerdenia said profit-taking might be seen in telecom stocks over reports it was one of government's priorities to pass a franchise tax on telecommunication firms.

"Investment activity should return to normal (this) week (after the typhoon) as investors weigh earnings prospects for the coming year," BPI Trade said in a weekly report.

Ginebra San Miguel Inc., for one, said strong liquor sales pushed earnings up by 10 percent to P139 million in October from P127 million a year ago. GSMI, the liquor unit of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., recorded a 19-percent increase in sales in October. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Moody's considers spate of positive news in RP credit-rating review

By Michelle V. Remo

MOODY'S Investors Service has expressed willingness to take into account the latest wave of positive developments—such as the sale of Masinloc power plant, the Supreme Court's decision liberalizing the mining sector, and the relatively high economic growth in the third quarter—in deciding over the fate of the Philippines' credit rating.

This was disclosed by Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong who, together with other finance officials, met with representatives of the international ratings firm Thursday night.

Representatives of Moody's, which earlier warned of a possible downgrade in the Philippines' credit rating due to the government's fiscal problem, came to the country for a review of Arroyo administration's fiscal situation.

"The sale of Masinloc, the Supreme Court's decision, and the announcement of the third-quarter GDP (gross domestic product) came in time for the visit of Moody's," Amatong said in an interview.

She said government officials reported the positive developments to Moody's representatives during the meeting, and that the ratings agency agreed to consider these in deciding whether or not to downgrade the Philippines' credit rating.

Last week, the Supreme Court handed down a decision opening the mining industry to foreign investments. The move was a reversal of the high court's earlier decision that the Mining Act of 1995, which liberalizes the local mining sector, was unconstitutional. The initial decision was much criticized by the executive branch and the business sector because this hindered the entry of billions of dollars in foreign investments.

The National Economic and Development Authority lauded the latest decision of the Supreme Court, saying it could pave the way for the entry of foreign investments amounting to $4 billion to $6 billion. The government said foreign investors were just waiting for the Supreme Court to make the favorable decision putting their money here.

Last Friday, the government was able to sell the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired power plant, National Power Corp.'s first major asset to be privatized, for $561.74 million to YNN Pacific Consortium.

The revenue raised from the successful bidding will be used to ease debts of the state-owned power firm and, consequently ease the burden on the already fiscally troubled national government.

Amatong also said the higher-than expected 6.3-percent GDP growth for the third quarter, which was announced in the last week of November, could slightly ease the downside pressure on the country's credit rating.

Finance officials also updated Moody's on the progress of the Arroyo administration's proposed fiscal measures in Congress.

The ratings agency earlier said developments in the country's fiscal sector would be the focus of its review. It raised concern on the perceived slow movement of the fiscal reform measures in the legislature, and said the country's credit rating would suffer from downside pressures if none of the measures were passed within the year.

Amatong said she believed legislators would stick to the commitment they gave in the recent meeting of the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (Ledac). In that meeting, lawmakers from the two chambers of Congress said they would conduct joint hearings so that Congress would be able to pass three measures before the end of the year generate P80 billion in additional annual revenue.

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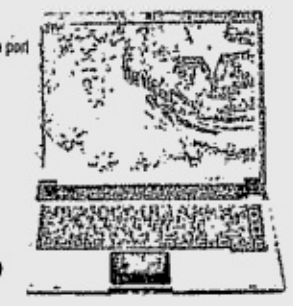

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PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS, INC.

37th Annual Convention
December 9-10, 2004 EDSA Shangri-la Hotel Mandaluyong City
"Evolving Issues in Anesthesia Practice"

MESSAGES

My warmest felicitations to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists on your 37th Annual Convention. Your theme, "Evolving Issues in Anesthesia Practice," reflects your commitment to make Filipino anesthesiologists world-class in terms of their updated knowledge and skill in the practice of their profession.

I am glad that your organization continues to raise the level of your proficiency as anesthesiologists, which augurs well for the health and medical care of our people.

Indeed, you have translated into action your four shared values, which are commitment to quality care, concern for members' welfare, professional growth and social consciousness. By so doing, you have helped promote national stability and progress which are key factors in our government's 10-point agenda aimed at bringing peace, progress and happiness to our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists as you hold your 37th Annual Convention with eagerness to face another year of promising opportunities and well-earned success.

The contributed talent, time and resources of your members to help your society to develop are truly commendable as you have become an integral part in the provision of quality health care in the country.

Your theme "Evolving Issues in Anesthesia Practice" will likewise aid in focusing the need for a more innovative approach that will essentially promote the use of quality anesthesia care in the country. The underlying challenge will be to sustain efforts as we need to unite behind a common goal of pushing our country towards cooperation and progress.

Congratulations and mabuhay kayong lahat!

Manuel M. Dayrit
MANUEL M. DAYRIT, M.D., MSc.
Secretary of Health

Greetings from the Philippine Medical Association! It is with great pleasure for me to convey my warmest felicitations to all the officers and members of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologist on the occasion of its Annual Convention scheduled to be held on December 9, 2004 at the EDSA Shangri-la Hotel.

Your theme "Evolving Issues in Anesthesia Practice" aptly expresses your genuine desire not only to improve the science and technology in your field of specialization but also to enhance your skills and the quality of services you provide. An organization that has existed for 53 years can surely be proud not only of itself, but also of the wealth of knowledge it has imbibed and shared with the medical community during the past several years of its existence.

The dynamic conditions of our times and the growing need of society for better services have indeed rendered our quest for excellence likened into a race... a race against time and against obsolescence. The dawning of new concepts, new technologies, alternative approaches in the field of medical practice have provided the impetus to think global in terms of our proficiency as medical practitioners. I am proud to say that our anesthesiologist are among the best in the world and I want you to keep it that way. With that note, I would like to express my warmest regards and best wishes to one and all!

Mabuhay at Maraming Salamat sa Inyong Lahat!

BU C. CASTRO, M.D., LIB, FPSP
President of Philippine Medical Association

MESSAGES

On behalf of the Officers and Directors of the PSA, I would like to welcome all the delegates to the 37th Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Anesthesiologists.

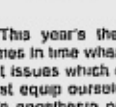
It is indeed a pleasure to see each of you again to renew our friendship and promote fellowship among the members of the Society – a time when the handshake is more that the handout and the smile is worth more than

This year's theme "Evolving Issues in Anesthesia Practice" comes in time when we must again update ourselves on the important issues which concern our practice. In this litigious times, we must equip ourselves with new skills and knowledge to promote safe anesthesia practice and it is our duty to administer quality anesthesia care. Issues such as perioperative care, intensive critical care, cerebral resuscitation, pediatric anesthesia, pain management, research and training and medico-legal aspects of anesthesia practice will be discussed.

I would like to commend the members of the Organizing Committee for preparing such interesting program of activities, especially the lecture topics and the social program.

Mabuhay tayong lahat! Mabuhay ang PSA!

Amelia M. Manzon, MD, DPBA
President of the Philippines Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc



Anesthesiology is in a constant flux and as in other specialties, there is always something new that radically changes the way one approaches problems in practice. The Organizing Committee of this 37th Convention has thus, aptly themed this year's scientific sessions as "Evolving Issues in Anesthesia Practice"

The issues are not only those that concern patient management but also those that concern training of future anesthesiologists as well as topics on the anesthesiologists' workplace. We sincerely hope that you will all find the issues compelling enough to merit your attendance and active participation in these sessions.

To balance the issues of the Convention, we are also holding the Post Graduate Course, this year entitled "CRASH Courses in Anesthesiology". The idea behind the theme is, if a member of the PSA were to attend to a patient for surgery and anesthesia after an absence from practice, he should be able to bring himself quickly up to par in terms of current knowledge by attending this Course. Even someone in continuous practice can learn a lot from the lectures, maybe even enough added knowledge to help one pass the Specialty Board Exam?

Essential in our development as a specialty society are the relationships members have with each other and what better way to foster these than during the Fellowship Night. This year's theme is "Thursday Night Fever", a 70's period party with the Flintstones Band providing the irresistible dance music. The Socials Committee, headed by Dr. Lilybeth Tanchoco, promises an unforgettable and enjoyable evening even for those of us who were but little children during that time.

We cannot help the present national and international situation in which we are inextricably mired. What we can do is to attend these conventions to further improve ourselves to ensure that we can provide only the best patient care possible.

Mabuhay kayong lahat at Maligayang Pasko!

Eric V. Nagtalon, MD, DPBA
Chair, Convention Organizing Committee
Chair, CME Committee

Programme of Activities

December 9, 2004 (Thursday)
Isla Ballroom
0700H REGISTRATION
0830-0930H OPENING CEREMONIES
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Bu C. Castro
President, Philippine Medical Association

0930-1030H 17th QUINTIN J. GOMEZ ORATION
CENON R. CRUZ,MD
NERISSA D. SANTOS, MD

1030-1100H OPENING & VIEWING OF TRADE EXHIBITS

1100-1145H Changing Nature of Anesthesia Practice in the Phils.
Speaker: Dr. Ludivino G. De Guzman

1145-1230H Luncheon Symposium 1
"Myocardial Pre-conditioning with Volatiles (with special reference to sevoflurane)
Speaker: Dr. Stephen Barratt

1230-1315H Mechanical Ventilation in the perioperative period
Speaker: Dr. Lim Boon Leng

1315-1400H Recent advances in cerebral resuscitation/protection
Speaker: Dr. Benjamin M. Rigor

1400-1445H Postoperative Cognitive Dysfunction
Speaker: Dr. Florian R. Nuevo

1445-1530H Panel Symposium: Acupuncture in Anesthesia & Analgesia
Panelists: Dr. Corazon R. Arcangel
Dr. Ma. Zenaida M. Mariano
Dr. Ceasar U. Sy

1530-1615H Symposium on: Updates on Pediatrics Anesthesia
Updates on Propofol & Other Drugs on Pediatric Anesthesia
Speaker: Dr. Eden D. Tan
Updates on Post op Pain Drugs
Speaker: Dr. Benjamin Daniel S. Valera

1615-1700H Recent Advances in Airway Management
Speaker: Dr. Lim Boon Leng

1800H -Onwards FELLOWSHIP NIGHT
Theme:" Thursday Night Fever"

December 10, 2004 (Friday)
0700H REGISTRATION
0830-1100H GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
1100-1145H Problems Confronting Training Programs
Speaker: Dr. Nerissa D. Santos

1145-1230H Luncheon Symposium 2 "Your Anesthesia Machine and You"
Output of the DOH Technical Committee on Anesthesia Work Station
Speaker: Dr. Iluminada T. Camagay

Luncheon Symposium 3 "Crystalloid or Colloids? Are we asking the Right Question?
Speaker: Dr. Hrishikesh Kulkarni

1230-1315H Anesthesia for Bariatric Surgery
Speaker: Dr. Jennifer C. Cancio

1315-1430H Topic: Obstructive sleep apnea and anesthesia
Speaker: Dr. Lim Boon Leng

1430-1515H Topic: Complications of Minimally Invasive Surgery
Speaker Dr. Ernesto F. Dela Cerna

1515-1630H Topic: Hand held Computing for the Anesthesiologist
Speaker: Dr. Jacinto Blas Mantaring

1630-1715H Topic: Pain Assessment for the Cognitively Impaired
Speaker: Dr. Benjamin M. Rigor

1715-1800H Topic: Sexual Harassment in Anesthesia Practice
Speaker: Atty. Clara Rita A. Padilla
Reactor: Atty. Ma. Elena R. Enriquez,MD

1800 -Onwards PSA CHAPTER DELEGATES MEETING

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Chair: Elena B. Realubit, MD
Physical Arrangement
Chair: Eleanor A. Guray, MD
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Luisita R. De Castro, MD
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Strong farm growth cited

INTERNATIONAL agriculture research firm Monsanto hailed the hefty growth registered by the agricultural sector, saying the performance was boosted by sound food production policies of the government.

Monsanto Philippines public affairs director Noel Borlongan said the sector was poised to register its highest growth rate since 2000. He cited reports of Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap that showed a 6.82 percent growth in the farm sector during the first nine months of the year. The growth boosted the sector's gross value of production by 19.2 percent to P557.9 million.

Borlongan cited in particular the performance of the grains subsector, with palay output rising by 14 percent to 8.91 million metric tons. This translates to a gross value of P85.4 billion, a 21 percent increase from year-ago level.

Corn output rose by 22.5 percent to 4.27 million metric tons for a gross value of P37.7 billion during the first nine months, a 56 percent increase from year-ago level.

Borlongan said that, while favorable weather conditions, higher yields per hectare, increase in planted hectarage and favorable market prices contributed to the hefty growth performance, the current agriculture policies were largely responsible for the impressive growth records.

Yap's focus on appropriate technology and the use of hybrid seeds clearly boosted productivity in palay areas, Borlongan pointed out. The agriculture department, he said, succeeded in pushing the use of the hybrid seed varieties through the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani program. This, in turn, caused higher harvest levels in Cagayan Valley, Western Visayas, Bicol and Mindanao.

Pre-need firm prospective buyer told to put up funds this month

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) is giving a prospective investor in troubled pre-need firm Asian Diamond Plans Inc. until the end of the year to infuse fresh capital into the company, sources told the INQUIRER.

The sources said the SEC was planning to shut down the company and distribute its assets among its estimated 4,000 plan holders if no new investments were infused into the firm by the end of the year.

Industry sources said a British national, who is a former sales executive of CMG Insurance, was interested in investing in Asian Diamond. He is planning to form a group of investors who will infuse investments into the ailing pre-need firm.

The company's assets include its trust fund, estimated at P30 million, sources said.

The SEC last week informed plan holders of the status of the pre-need firm and its plan to liquidate the company's assets if no investor would come in by Dec. 31.

The SEC Commission en Banc approved the deadline for the prospective investor two weeks ago.

To meet the SEC's P100-million capital requirement for pre-need firms, the prospective investor may be allowed to infuse a minimum of P10 million in cash and P90 million worth of real assets into the company.

Asian Diamond had stopped selling pre-need plans since early last year. A few months later, the SEC formed a management committee to preserve the assets of the company and protect the interest of plan holders.

The SEC last year discovered that Asian Diamond Plans had a trust fund deficiency of P13.5 million.

To date, industry sources said net liabilities had already reached around P100 million.

To help address its deficit, an American-Singaporean group subsequently bought a major stake in the pre-need firm from previous shareholder Damaso Magbual.

The SEC expressed concerns over the infusion of new capital by the Singaporean group saying it was a loan and not fresh money. It later said that to continue selling plans, Asian Diamond should find a new investor.

The SEC earlier required pre-need firms to raise their paid-up capital base to at least P100 million in a bid to weed out fly-by-night operators and to consolidate the industry. The paid-up capital requirement led to merger and acquisition talks in the pre-need industry.

Robina Farms sets expansion plans for 2005

By Christine A. Gaylican

JG SUMMIT Holdings Corp. has set expansion plans for its agribusiness subsidiary, Robina Farms, involving the establishment of new hog farms most likely in areas outside of Luzon.

According to company president and chief operating officer Lance Gokongwei, Robina Farms is inclined to expand the capacity of its existing sow breeder farms in Luzon and to build new ones in other areas next year.

"There are definite plans for expansion of our sow breeding operations but the exact numbers have yet to be finalized and decided by the company board this month," Gokongwei said.

Robina Farms' existing swine breeder farms are in Teresa, Rizal and San Miguel, Bulacan. The farms have combined capacity to produce 200,000 heads a year.

Considered the third largest commercial hog farm raiser nationwide, Robina Farms aims to increase its share of the market, which is currently dominated by San Miguel Corp.'s Monterey Farms and the Lucio Tan Group's Foremost Farms.

Aside from hog raising, Robina Farms is also engaged in poultry farming. It supplies broiler and layer day-old chicks largely to backyard raisers (the company holds about 40 percent of the commercial day-old broiler chicks market and some 55 percent share of layer day-old pullets.)

Robina Farms forms part of the Gokongwei Group's agro-industrial subsidiaries under Universal Robina Corp. It contributed about 13 percent to the entire group's domestic sales last year worth P28.6 billion.

The Gokongweis' two other agro-industrial companies are Universal Corn Products Inc., engaged in the manufacturing and distribution of animal feeds and glucose, and Robichem, which handles the production and distribution of animal health products.

The Gokongweis are also into sugar milling and refining through subsidiaries Universal Robina Sugar Milling Corp. (Ursumco), Cagayan Robina Sugar Milling Corp. (Carsumco), and Southern Negros Development Corp. (Sonedco), and flour milling through Continental Milling Company (CMC). In 2003, this segment contributed approximately 10 percent of the group's aggregate net sales.

No Free Lunch

From page B2

tral and South America, still largely insignificant in our trade and investment relationships. And yet our neighbors Malaysia and Indonesia have already made much more headway in these economies, despite our potential advantage arising from the historical Hispanic colonial ties we share with them.

Addressing vulnerability

'Maximizing ODA opportunities at a time our government is cash-strapped should certainly be an important element in our economic diplomacy. So are efforts to achieve some form of debt relief and debt reduction through debt swaps and negotiations to reduce debt payments in the short term. We can do more to maximize market opportunities from the growth in services outsourcing and aging populations in wealthy countries. With some strategic thinking, more such opportunities can be identified and planned for.

There is a danger that the current preoccupation with international security and the effort against terrorism would unduly crowd our economic diplomacy from the priorities of our foreign service. At this time when our economy is particularly vulnerable due to the government's fiscal difficulties, it is important more than ever that the fiscal crisis be prevented from turning into a full economic crisis. And apart NEDA, DOF, DTI, DBM, BSP and the other economic agencies, the Department of Foreign Affairs can play a crucial role in ensuring this. *Comments and welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

NTC to base telco's fees on number of subscribers

Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission is coming up with a new set of rules that would base the computation of spectrum users' fee on a mobile phone company's number of subscribers.

The NTC said this was in line with efforts to raise more revenue. It would also ensure a more accurate reporting of subscribers.

In its draft circular, the NTC wanted to impose an additional spectrum fee of P1 million for every 100,000 additional subscribers in excess of 2 million. For mobile carriers with only 2 million customers and below, the old rate will apply.

"We are looking at a new formula that would take into account the number of subscribers," said Ronald Solis, NTC commissioner. "The NTC believes the fees should not be based on a constant number of base stations but on the income they derive from these."

As of end-September, Smart Communications Inc. said its customers have reached 17.5 million while Globe Telecom Inc. said it counted 11.7 million. Third player Sun Cellular said it broke the 1 million mark in November.

The bulk of the regulator's profits yearly come from the spectrum users' fee, or what the NTC collects from telecom companies for use of certain radio frequencies.

In the first half, the NTC raised P381 million from spectrum fees out of the total P488 million generated by the agency. It also collects regulatory fees and other charges related to filing and licensing.

Currently, the spectrum fee slapped on mobile carriers is based on the radio frequency band occupied and the area covered. It takes into account the number of base stations or cellular sites.

Even the current basis of the spectrum fee is being disputed by mobile carriers. Wireless players claimed the NTC had been imposing double charges on the radio frequency.

"We want to rationalize the basis of the fees and also to resolve outstanding issues," Solis said. "We are considering a reasonable period for them to have recovered their investments in the infrastructure. Thus, the 2 million subscribers' ceiling."

The NTC chief is anticipating an initial resistance from the industry, but he said the commission would continue to draft measures it believed fair and reasonable.

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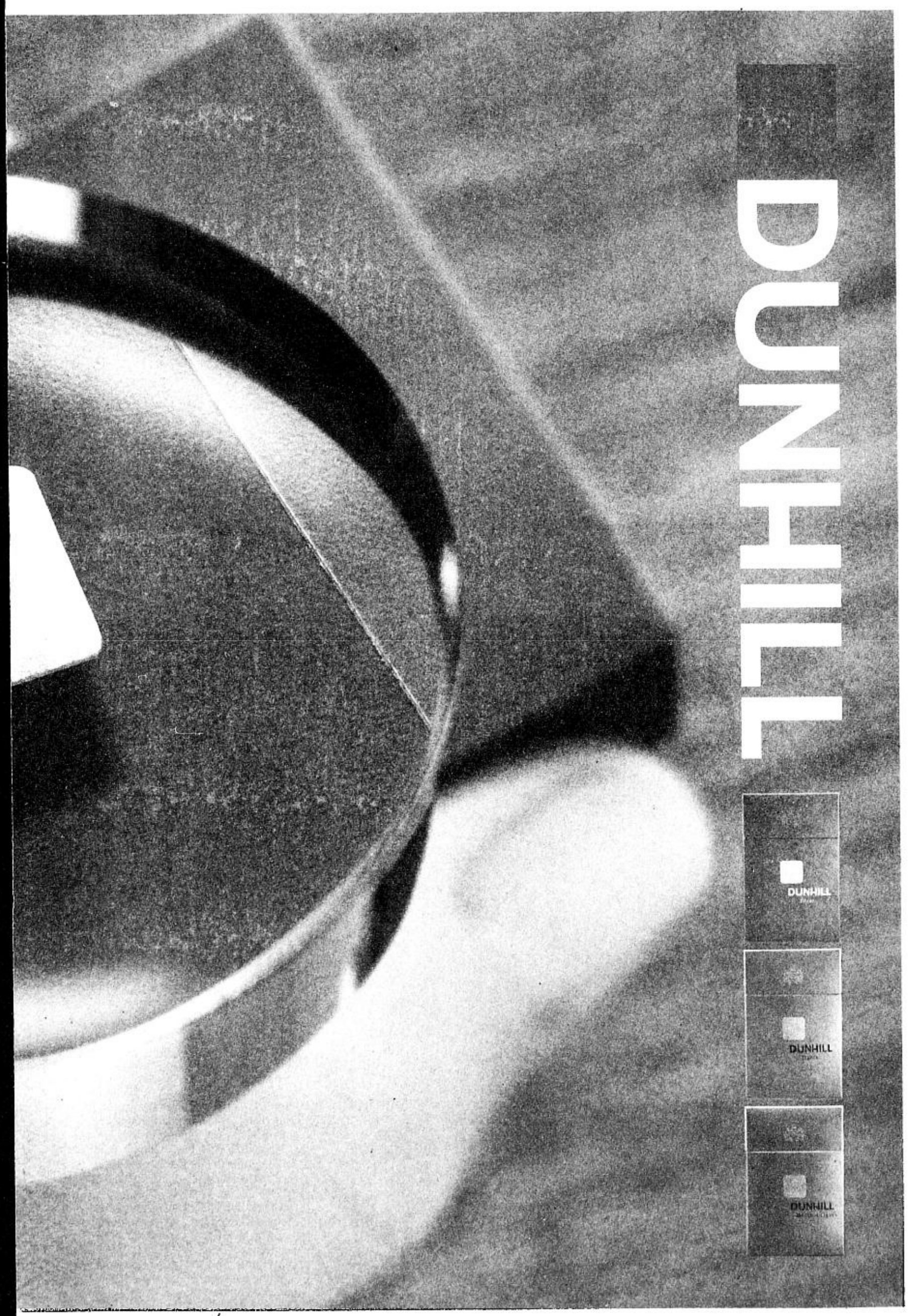

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PLDT seen to incur P2B in forex losses

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. is likely to incur P2 billion in foreign exchange losses this year as a result of the new international accounting standards, a senior official said.

Annabelle Chua, PLDT senior vice president and treasurer, said that the telecom giant was likely to book about P2 billion in exchange losses.

She added that this would not affect the company's bottomline.

"It would be PNL (Profit and Loss Statement) neutral," Chua said. "We are required to book the losses each year depending on how the foreign exchange moved. Losses (of the) previous years would be charged to the balance sheet."

Chua said the exchange rate was not very volatile this year compared to previous years. The peso had averaged at about P56 to the dollar.

Companies worldwide must comply with two new international accounting standards.

The first, already being implemented this year, requires companies to book any foreign exchange losses on transaction on the year these were incurred and not later.

Up for adoption next year is the requirement that outstanding losses on foreign exchange transactions be made transparent.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said the company would start adopting the new global accounting benchmark this fourth quarter. The telecom giant has nearly $3 billion in outstanding debt, the bulk of which is due to its fixed-line business.

Of the PLDT Group's $2.99-billion debt, $2.2 billion are owed by the fixed-line business, Smart and Piltel has a combined $718 million. *Clarissa S. Batino*

RP firms post sales of $12.8M in trade shows

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE companies earned a total of $12.8 million or about P717 million in sales receipts during home and construction, and food and beverage trade shows held in Japan over the last two months.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, local firm's participation in the Japan Home and Building Show 2004 held Nov. 16-19 registered $8.2 million or about P459 million in receipts.

Three companies—natural stone products firm Pearlstone Inc., kitchen and cabinet accessories firm Asiaco Enterprises International Corp. and wooden laminated doors firm YYD System Interiors Inc.—took part in Japan's largest trade show for housing and building materials.

The exhibitors confirmed that the Japanese were interested in modern home fixtures. They said the Philippine booth entertained at least 150 trade inquiries, according to Citem.

Also, Philippine exhibitors yielded P4.6 million or about P258 million in sales during the Asean Food and Beverage Exhibition held Oct. 3-8.

Local companies that participated include Cater King Food Corp. for Mama Rosa gourmet products, Natural Quality for ampalaya food supplement, RFM Corp. for fruit drinks and VCNO Philippines for virgin coconut oil.

The country has targeted food promotion in Japan to showcase a wide range of Philippine food and farm products including tropical fruit drinks and natural vinegar.

MEDICAL TOURISM, OUTSOURCING

'Clustering' strategy urged to lure investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES can lure more foreign direct investments into the country by making its industries cluster around niches, such as medical tourism and contract business process outsourcing.

This was one of the main conclusions that came out of the recent Asian Development Bank workshop entitled, "Developing a Competitive Philippine Business Environment."

The workshop said that clustering was an important strategy to "ensure a targeted effort and to enhance the advantages the country enjoys," the ADB said in a report.

Jointly organized by the ADB, Asia Society Philippine Foundation and ING Bank Philippines, the workshop brought together a multi-sectoral group of prominent local businessmen, top managers of international corporations operating in the Philippines and government officials.

Medical tourism, one of the country's seven investment priorities, capitalizes on the existing state-of-the-art hospitals and medical facilities in the country and on the huge number of doctors, nurses, and caregivers now going out of the country to find work.

"We can tell our nurses to go abroad, learn everything you can, network, save, and then come back and invest in medical tourism in the country," said Doris Ho, chair of Asia Society.

The call center business, on the other hand, which first came into the Philippines in 2001, is considered one of the country's sunshine industries and now employs about 55,000 people.

"We have experienced tremendous expansion and there is still an influx of companies looking to set up call centers in the Philippines," said Karen Batungbacal, president of ICT Group Inc. in the Asia Pacific and president of Business Processing Association Philippines.

But it was raised that the deteriorating fluency in English and perceptions of security risks were two major constraints that could hamper the further expansion of the BPO industry in the Philippines.

To ensure that the country maintains its competitive advantage in English fluency, the workshop participants suggested using government-owned television networks to promote the use of English and convincing colleges and universities to once again revert to the use of English as the main medium of instruction.

The need to address the anticipated inadequacy of power supply was also highlighted as one of the more urgent infrastructure needs.

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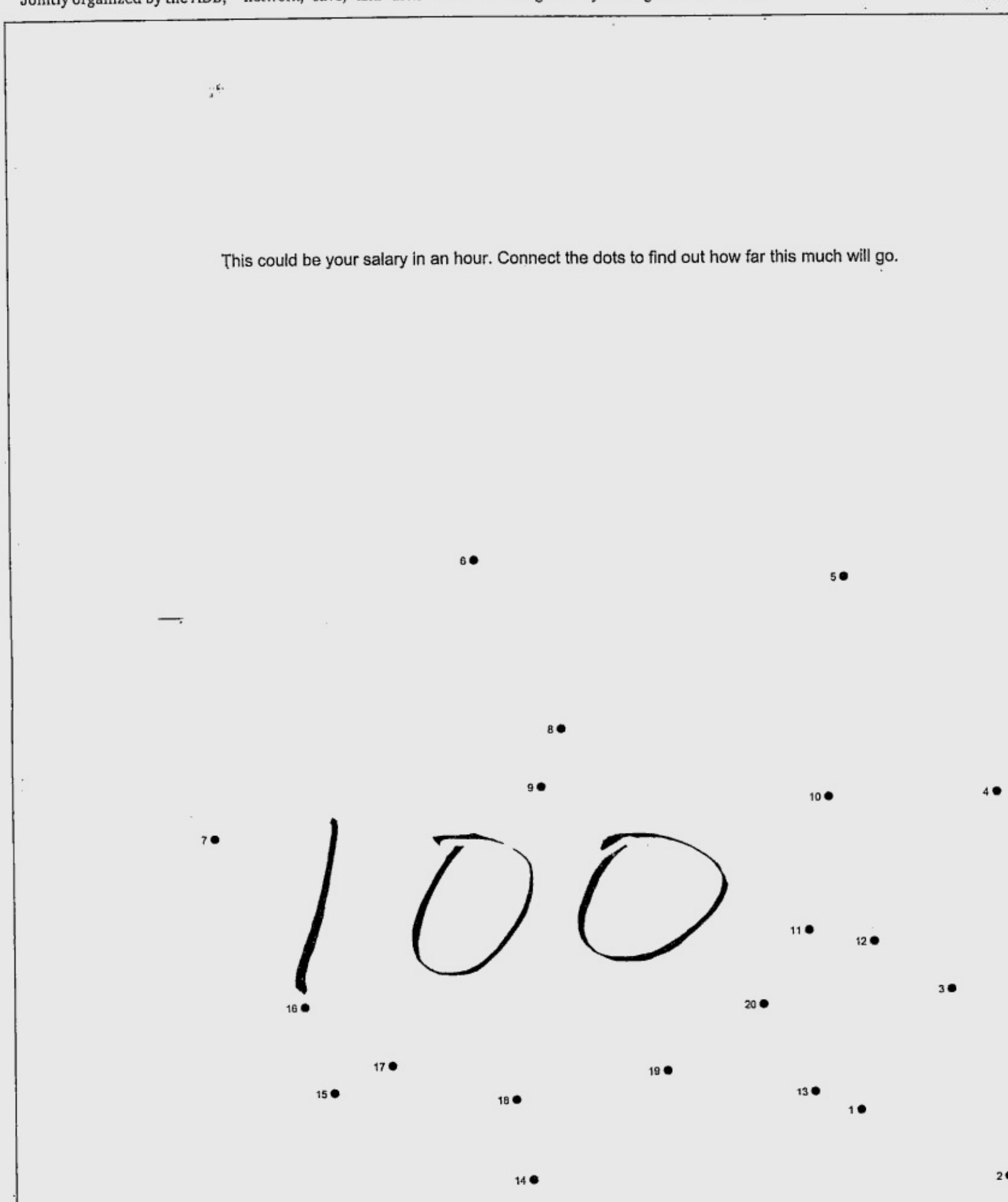

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RP to partner with China on pricing

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is leading efforts to get local firms to partner with their Chinese counterparts, in a bid to expand the market for Philippine exports.

The DTI's Center for International trade Expositions and Missions led a trade delegation to China last October to see how local firms could adopt the Chinese pricing structure.

The delegates also reported that while goods from China could be priced lower than Philippine products, the design, quality and production quality for local goods remained competitive.

The delegates included officials from MKJ Service Link Contractors Inc., Sanport Craft International and JC Jem's International Export Inc.

The delegates also said that partnerships with Chinese companies could mean the Philippines would do the product and marketing development, while Chinese counterparts could do the manufacturing.

China's first wave of exports in the 1980s consisted of low-end items such as toys and textiles, but a new wave of shipments include high-value and high-technology products such as electronics, appliances, automobiles, computers and mobile phones.

On the other hand, the Philippines has moved on from a supplier of export products to a source of design ideas in Asia.

Local products have found their way into showrooms and upscale shops such as Ralph Lauren, Casa Armani, Calvin Klein, Neiman Marcus and Marks and Spencer.

Citem executive director and Trade Assistant Secretary Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes said: "Instead of competing with China, we would like to eye it as our partner in creating excellent products that address the needs of consumers in the global market."

"We can complement China's low-cost manufacturing with our savvy in marketing," Reyes added.

Nippon Oil eyes 10% share of lubricant mart

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOCAL distributor of Nippon Oil Corp., Japan's biggest oil firm, expects to grab a 10-percent share of the P15.3-million automotive lubricant market in two years.

Ferdinand Tarroza, assistant vice president at Nippon Oil local distributor Delta Japan Oil Products Corp., said the firm aimed to sell between 600,000 and 800,000 liters of lubricating oil during the first year alone.

According to Delta Japan's research, 255 million liters of lubricating oil were sold each year to the automotive, marine and industrial sectors.

Of this 255 million liters, automotive lubricants accounted for 40 percent of total sales.

Delta Japan said it was targeting a 10 percent share of this market for automotive lubricants for its lubricant brand Eneos.

The automotive lubricant market is divided into the commercial and "high-street" or retail.

The commercial market covers trucking firms, hauling services and bus operators, while retail refers to individual consumers.

Nippon Oil's Eneos brand caters to the retail market.

Delta Japan president Arturo Tayag said the company aimed to at least break even on the first year of selling the Eneos brand here. Nippon Oil marketing group senior staff Kentaro Sodeyama said the entry of the Eneos brand into the Philippine market was a good way for the Japanese firm to penetrate the local market.

However, he said there were no plans right now to expand its business here beyond the marketing of the Eneos oils.

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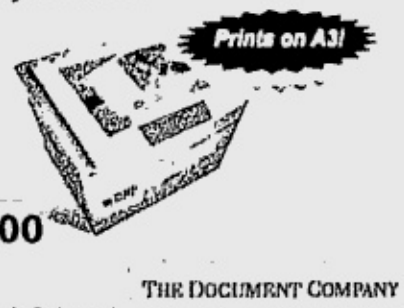

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People, Events & Products

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Filipino attempts to climb Mt. Aconcagua for PGH wards

FOR THOSE thirsty for some good news, look no further. This December, a Filipino mountaineer will attempt to climb Mt. Aconcagua, the highest mountain in the Americas, to raise funds for the charity wards of the Philippine General Hospital.

Romi Garduce, a seasoned mountaineer who has successfully made several high-altitude climbs in the past, is making the attempt in the hopes of soliciting donations in behalf of the Bukas Sarili Foundation. Composed almost entirely of volunteers, BSF spearheads activities to raises funds to support patients at the Internal Medicine wards of the PGH.

Since 1999, BSF has helped more than 200 indigent patients afflicted with illnesses such as tuberculosis, diabetes, pneumonia, and cancer.

Mt. Aconcagua, standing at more than 22,842 feet, is the highest mountain in South America and outside Asia. It is considered by the climbing community to be a dangerous ascent. The list of deaths on the mountain attests to the dangers that await those who attempt to conquer it.

Aconcagua Park Authorities records show that if he succeeds in reaching Mt. Aconcagua's summit, Garduce will be the first Filipino to do so. Further, this may be the highest altitude reached by a Filipino on record to date. (This latter record, though, may need to be verified).

Garduce initially intended to climb the mountain as a purely personal endeavor. Inspired by fund-raising projects of BSF however, particularly its yearly marathon-for-a-cause events, he volunteered to make his effort a venue to raise funds for often overlooked patients at the PGH.

Individuals and companies can contribute either through outright donations or conditional pledges. People may pledge any amount according to every thousand feet that Garduce reaches, or whether or not he successfully reaches its summit.

Garduce leaves for Argentina on Dec. 10. He is expected to be back safely in January.

For more information, call the Bukas Sarili Foundation through Iona Jalijali at 0917-8110874 or ionaks@yahoo.com or ijalijali@bukas-sarili.org.

TRANSGLOBAL CONSOLIDATORS IS TOP PICK

The world-class air cargo mover, Transglobal Consolidators Inc, was recently cited as the Outstanding Air Cargo Consolidator by the 42-year-old Consumers Union of the Philippines (CUP) during its 15th Annual National Consumers Awards. Known for providing customers the highest standard of service at the best competitive rates, Transglobal Consolidators Inc also maintains an excellent work environment for its employees by maintaining a program that promotes their total development. Shown are lawyers Quirino Marquinez (left), CUP president, presenting the award to Paul Louie Tugade (center), president of Transglobal Consolidators Inc, while other CUP officers look on. Transglobal Consolidators Inc's main office is at the Perry Logistics Centre alone Ninoy Aquino Avenue, and may be reached at 826-5400. It also has a Cebu office at the Galco Building at the Mactan International Airport Cargo Complex, with telephone numbers 341-5025.

PNOC to use Osea2004 as platform for strategic partnerships

THE PHILIPPINE National Oil Company (PNOC) is among the companies that will be taking part in Asia's largest oil and gas trade exhibition Osea2004. Slated from Dec. 7 to 10 at Suntec Singapore, Osea2004 will open doors for joint ventures in oil and gas exploration and is a chance for the Philippines to showcase its prowess in geothermal energy.

"We are proud to announce that PNOC will be participating in Osea. We have taken part in Osea in the past and have found it to be a highly effective platform in forming strategic partnerships and gaining important contacts. We consider Osea as one of the most comprehensive oil and gas events in the region," says Eduardo V. Manalac, president and CEO, Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC). Osea2004 provides a comprehensive showcase of the latest upstream and downstream technologies that are supplied to national oil companies and international oil companies.

At the show, oil-producing countries have the opportunity to attract foreign direct investment from international oil companies and national oil companies from other countries. They can source for the latest technologies that will help them optimize oil production to gain the best ROI on energy investments.

Oil consumption in the Philippines is expected to rise by five percent a year for the rest of the decade, according to the Petroleum Economist. The Philippines' rising oil demand is met mostly by net oil imports of 312,000 barrels per day.

A high concentration of oil majors at Osea would be an impetus for the Philippines to source for overseas joint ventures in oil exploration and to attract investors to further develop its own emerging natural gas industry. Reducing oil import expenses is the primary reason behind the government's agenda to expand the use of natural gas for electric power generation and transportation fuel. This would serve as a lucrative incentive for foreign investors to tap on the Philippines' proven natural gas reserves of 3.8 trillion cubic feet.

Apart from satisfying national energy needs, the Philippines can also showcase alternatives to fuel such as geothermal power. The Philippines is the second largest producer of geothermal power in the world.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the Philippines appears to also have a strong potential for wind generation, which means other renewables for electricity generation can also be explored. At a time when there is an international oil crisis, oil-hungry countries will be on the hunt for alternatives to oil as a staple source of energy.

PNOC will be joined by four other National Oil Companies including BPMIGas, Timor-Leste Mineral Resources Directorate of the Ministry Of Development and Environment (the Designated Authority of the Timor Sea JPDA), and Singapore Petroleum Company. At Osea2004, Timor Leste will offer its first open and competitive bid round for selected oil and gas exploration blocks, moving forward after resolving its recent dispute with Australia over the maritime boundary. Timor Leste will also be announcing recent developments on its offshore seismic study and updates on petroleum legislation, with a focus on transparency initiatives in establishing its oil and gas industry.

Over 1,000 exhibiting companies from 45 countries representing high net worth investors and key stakeholders will be seen at Osea2004. Companies such as 3M Technologies, Aqua-Terra Supply Co Ltd, Bluewater Energy, GE Supply, Industrial Services, J Ray McDermott, Keppel Offshore & Marine, Kiswire, KS Tech, Haskel, Parker Hannifin, Radio Holland, Mariloff, SingTel and many others will showcase their innovative solutions for the Asian oil and gas industry to attract business opportunities and new contracts for the provision of hardware, technologies and services.

International companies such as CNOOC, ConocoPhillips, Exxonmobil, Halliburton, Schlumberger, Shell, Unocal, PTTEP, Petronas Carigali, Japan National Oil Corp, Nippon Oil, Star Energy, Woodside Energy and many others have indicated their interest to visit Osea2004 to source for technologies.

"Osea presents opportunities for open dialogue and negotiation between key players from around the region and the Middle East. Companies, government representations and decision-makers come here on sourcing and market intelligence missions, get updated on the latest technologies, industry trends and exchange ideas," said Tee Boon Teong, project director for Osea, Singapore Exhibition Services.

An expected 10,000 visitors will attend the show, including key decision-makers from top management, engineers, draftsmen, government executives, project consultants, rig operators, petroleum geologists, industry professionals from oil and gas exploration, processing and refinery, shipbuilding and marine engineering and other related industries. Six country groups from Australia, Germany, Italy, Norway, United Kingdom and the United States are expected to be present at Osea2004. The event is organized by Singapore Exhibition Services (SES). For more information about Osea2004, log on to www.osea-asia.com.

CITIBANK PREFERRED BRANDS PROMO

Citibank, the industry innovator in card products and services, recently launched its biggest promotion that gives new and existing cardholders the chance to win big-ticket prizes, including a brand-new Mercedes Benz C180 Kompressor, a Canon Powershot Pro1 Digital Camera with Canon Pixma IP6000D photo printer, P100,000 worth of Shell fuel cards, a Fujitsu Lifebook S6220, a 43-inch Sony Projection TV, an Apple iPod 40G with dock and Apple Care protection plan, a Hewlett Packard iPAQ 3715, trips for two to Hong Kong via Cathay Pacific, a Panasonic Home Theater SC-HT-900 and a Samsung E800 mobile phone. To join, cardholders must text the word 'CITI' and the last 10 digits of their credit card and send it to 2366. Approved applicants for a Citibank credit card will earn raffle entries depending on their card type. Existing cardholders earn 1 raffle entry for every P1,000 retail and cash advance transactions, and PayLite availments. You can also earn raffle entries by enrolling utility accounts to Citibank 1Bill and applying for supplementary cards. Selected transactions made online at www.citibank.com.ph get bonus raffle entries. A cardholder may win one of the 10 prizes during the first two raffle draws slated on Dec. 6 and 27 or get to win the entire showcase-all 10 prizes-in the grand raffle draw on March 3. Seen during the launch were (from left) Citibank marketing director Cecille Fonacier, cards business director Michellina Triwardhany, country business manager for global consumer group Nina Aguas and TV personality Angel Jacob, who hosted the affair.

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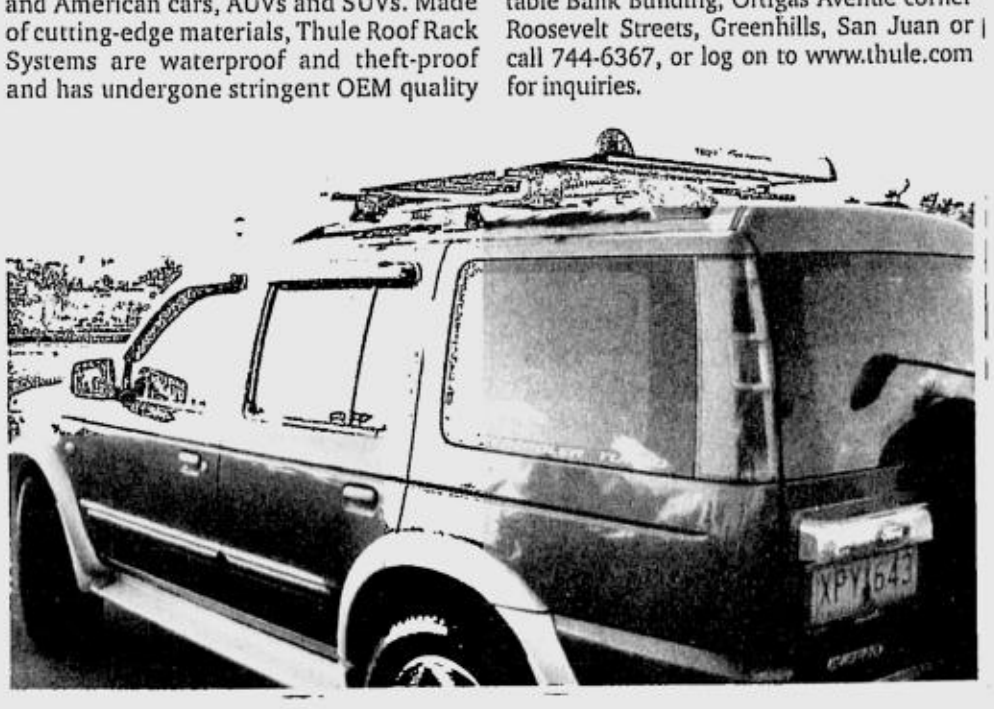
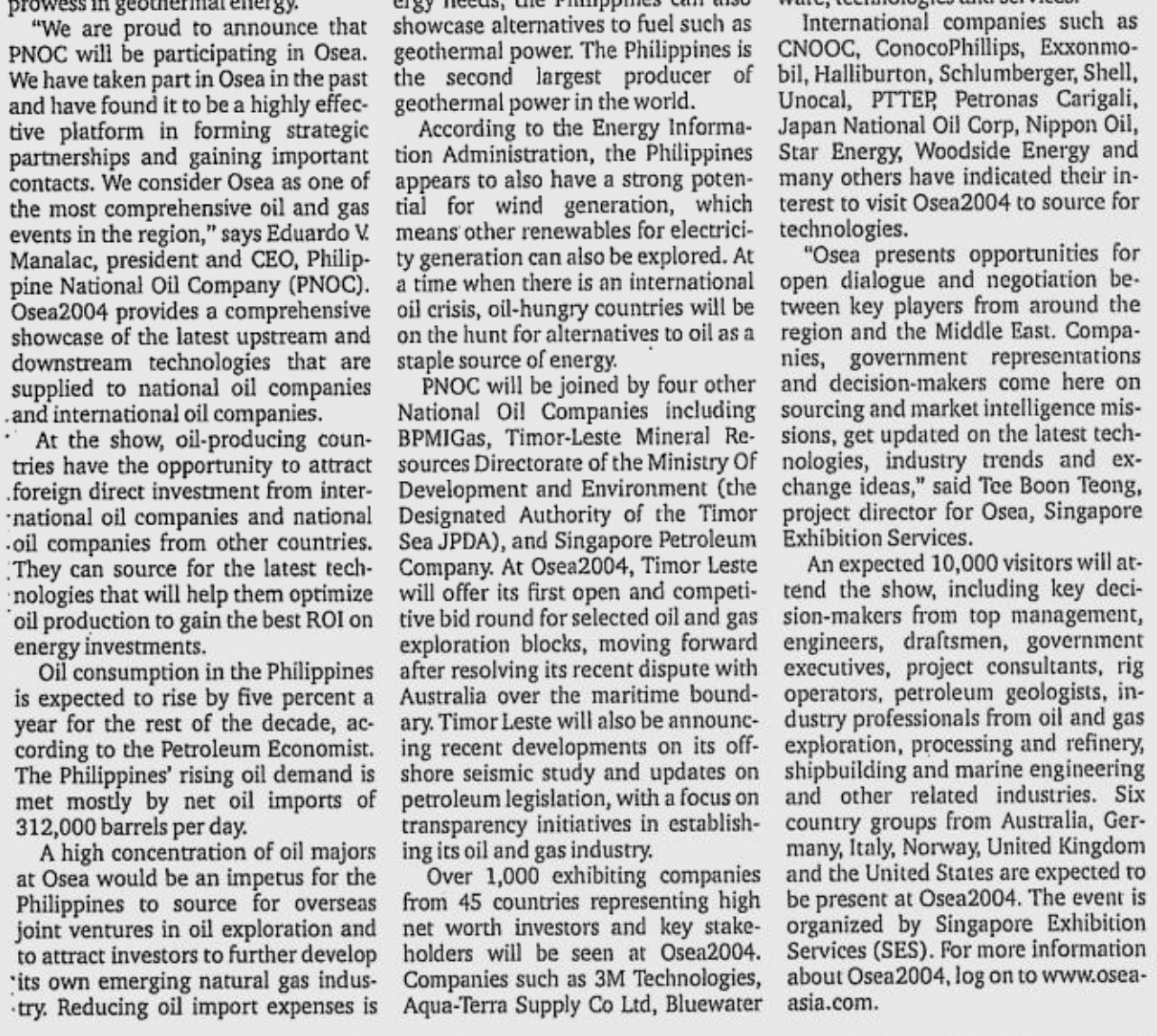
COMPACT cars, SUVs and AUVs were not designed to carry excess luggage other than what would fit in its trunk. If you have more luggage than what your vehicle will allow, add roof racks. Thule Roof Rack Systems of Sweden makes it possible to fit your extra load. Thule is designed to be a perfect fit for most Japanese, European and American cars, AUVs and SUVs. Made of cutting-edge materials, Thule Roof Rack Systems are waterproof and theft-proof and has undergone stringent OEM quality testing and has passed the four seasons test as required by the Ford Q1, QS9000, the German DIN 75302, German TUV and the ISO norm 11154 and 14001. Shown is a Ford Everest equipped with Thule's Xplorer rack system.

Thule's line of roof boxes and accessories are on display at its showroom at the Equitable Bank Building, Ortigas Avenue corner Roosevelt Streets, Greenhills, San Juan or call 744-6367, or log on to www.thule.com for inquiries.





MFI 19TH GRADUATION RITES

A total of 149 scholars of Meralco Foundation Institute (MFI), who completed the 3-year Industrial Technician Program, received their diplomas during the school's 19th commencement exercises held at the Teatro Aguinaldo. Shown are the school's officials (from left) Dr. Quintin Doromal and Rod Cruz, members of the advisory council, Manuel Lim Jr, Dr. Rene Gayo, Dean Alberto Muyot and Dr. Florangel Rosario Braid, trustees, Dr. Jose S. Sandejas, chair, board of trustees, Rep. Edmundo O. Reyes Jr (seated), guest speaker, and Col. Alex T. Escaño, MFI president. Shown below is part of the graduating batch of scholars.

PWM 2005 showcases digital film tech

PHOTOWORLD Manila 2005, the country's biggest and longest-running photo show, opens from Feb. 3 to 8 at Glorietta, Ayala Center in Makati.

Photographers, amateur and professional, as well as suppliers of the photo industry, will mount a grand trade show and photo exhibit that will showcase the latest digital/film cameras, photo technology at the premier Makati mall.

On its 10th year, PWM 2005 enjoys wide participation and features a trade exhibit showcasing the latest models of cameras and video imaging products, a photo exhibit by the country's active camera clubs and photo associations, proclamation of Photoworld Cup winners, photo contests, and daily activities enhancing photo skills of photo enthusiasts.

A series of seminars will be conducted at the Asian Institute of Management from Feb. 4 to 7. Led by foremost American lecturer Eddie Tapp, the acknowledged leading lecturer on digital imaging, the series of workshops lined up for the event aims to enhance and broaden the skills of photographers who have shifted to digital photography. The workshops will be on various interesting topics by topnotch local photographers.

Special discount prices for cameras and photo equipment will be offered by trade exhibitors.

PWM 2005 is being organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation, a photo organization promoting the advancement of photography in the Philippines. For details, visit FPPF at the 7th floor of the Comfoods Building, Gil Puyat Avenue corner Chino Roces Avenue, Makati, or call 813-7420 or 843-5341, or log on to www.photoworldmanila.com.

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM SURVEY

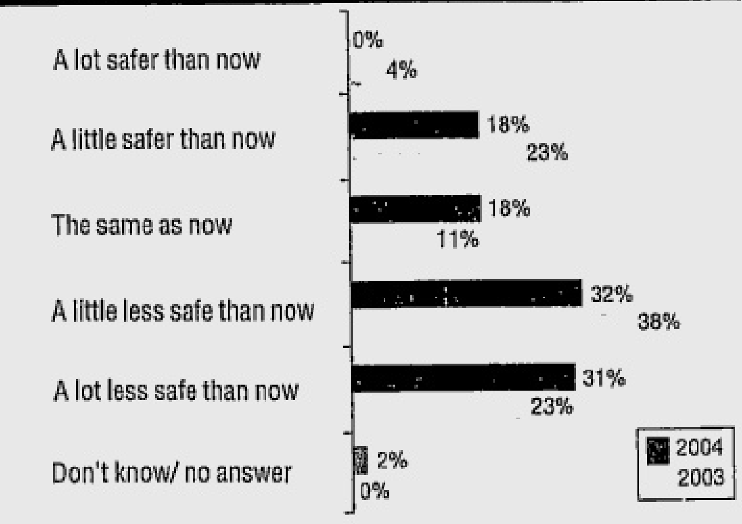
Leaders upbeat on global economic prospects

GENEVA, Switzerland—The Voice of the Leaders survey carried out by Weber Shandwick and KRC suggests that while the 2,000 corporate, political, academic and media leaders are more concerned about security, they do not feel that threats to security will derail the global economy.

The Voice of the Leaders survey echoes the questions put to over 50,000 respondents in the Voice of the People survey commissioned by the World Economic Forum and released last month.

The WEF is the foremost global community of business, political, intellectual and other leaders of society committed to improving the state of the world.

Do you think the next generation is in a safer or less safe world or will it be same as now?



Survey results

The Voice of the Leaders survey reveals:

- Global leaders are more pessimistic about global security than last year.
- An increase in terrorism (46 percent) and expansion of the war in Iraq to other parts of the world (24 percent) are respondents; greatest worries for 2005.
- Corporate leaders are significantly less pessimistic than political and media leaders.
- Global leaders are significantly more concerned about prospects for security than the general public questioned in the Voice of the People survey.
- Despite the concern about security, leaders are more optimistic about the economy than they were a year ago and significantly more upbeat on the economy than the respondents of the Voice of the People survey.

The leaders believe that technology and trade liberalization are the most significant drivers of economic prosperity.

Commenting on the findings, Professor Klaus Schwab, executive chair and founder of the World Economic Forum, said: "The results of the survey show that it is ever more imperative to bring world leaders together in order not to let security angst compromise the economic outlook."

Security

Global business and political leaders participating in the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos next year are more pessimistic than a year ago about the state of the world. *(See table above.)*

Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of the leaders believe that the next generation will live in a less safe world. This compares to 61 percent 12 months ago.

There has been a sharp drop in the number of leaders who believe that the next generation will live in a safer world. Last year it was 27 percent, but the latest sample shows that only 18 percent believe in a safer world. Nobody believes that the world will be much safer for the next generation, whereas last year 4 percent believed in the prospect of a much safer world.

Corporate leaders seem to be considerably more optimistic than political and media leaders. Some 20 percent believe that the world will be a little bit safer compared to 15 percent of the other group which consists of media, politicians, NGOs and academics.

About 61 percent of the corporate leaders are convinced that the world will be a less safe place for the next generation compared to 67 percent of non-corporate leaders.

The media subset is marginally more pessimistic with 63 percent, while academics, politicians and NGOs are the most pessimistic subgroup with 72 percent believing that the next generation will face a more dangerous world.

The reasons for this increased pessimism by the leaders become apparent in their response to the question about their greatest worry for 2005.

An increase in terrorism (46 percent) and expansion of the war in Iraq to other parts of the world (24 percent) are respondents' greatest worries for 2005. A failure in the economy is slightly more likely to worry corporate respondents (18 percent) than non-corporate respondents (12 percent).

By comparing the Voice of the Leaders survey with the Voice of the People survey commissioned by the World Economic Forum and conducted by Gallup International in over 60 countries around the globe, findings show that the leaders are more pessimistic than the wider population.

About 45 percent of the people surveyed around the world believe that the next generation will be less safe, compared to 63 percent of the leaders.

Prosperity

The participants who will attend the World Economic Forum's Annual Meeting in Davos in January 2005 were asked for their opinion on whether the next generation will live in a more or less prosperous world. *(See table below)*

It seems that despite their pessimism about security, the leaders' group is becoming more optimistic about global economic prospects. Two-thirds (65 percent) believe that the next generation will enjoy greater prosperity in the future. Only 27 percent believe that the next generation will be less prosperous.

This represents a significant improvement in the leaders' opinion on economic prospects. In the last survey, carried out 12 months ago, 59 percent believed that the next generation would be more economically prosperous, with 29 percent believing it would be less prosperous a marginal improvement in 12 months.

Corporate leaders are the most optimistic group of World Economic Forum participants. Some 68 percent are optimistic about economic prospects, with nearly a quarter (23 percent) believing that the next generation will have much more economic prosperity than now.

By contrast, the non-corporate group is slightly more pessimistic, with only 63 percent believing there will be more economic prosperity and only 16 percent believing that there will be much more economic prosperity.

That last figure is made up exclusively of the media. It seems that no politicians, academics or NGOs believe that there will be much more economic growth.

More than one-third of non-corporate leaders (35 percent) believe there will be less prosperity, compared to only 23 percent of corporate leaders.

Growth drivers

In order to analyze how and why this improvement in economic growth will come about, the poll also asked what the most important drivers of prosperity are.

Technology (58 percent) and trade liberalization (53 percent) are the most significant by a substantial margin. Increasing flows of direct investment is important for only 39 percent and the free flow of global capital only rated 27 percent. Aid is only considered to be a driver by 9 percent.

The corporate leaders' preferred prosperity driver is trade liberalization. Taken together with the lower rating for increasing capital and investment flows, this suggests that the world's business leaders are more strategically focused on selling goods and services than on investing outside their home markets.

There is a disparity in support for technology as a driver of growth. While it is the top driver for the group as a whole, it is the second most important driver for the corporate group. There is a significantly greater importance attached to technology by the politicians, media, academics and NGOs.

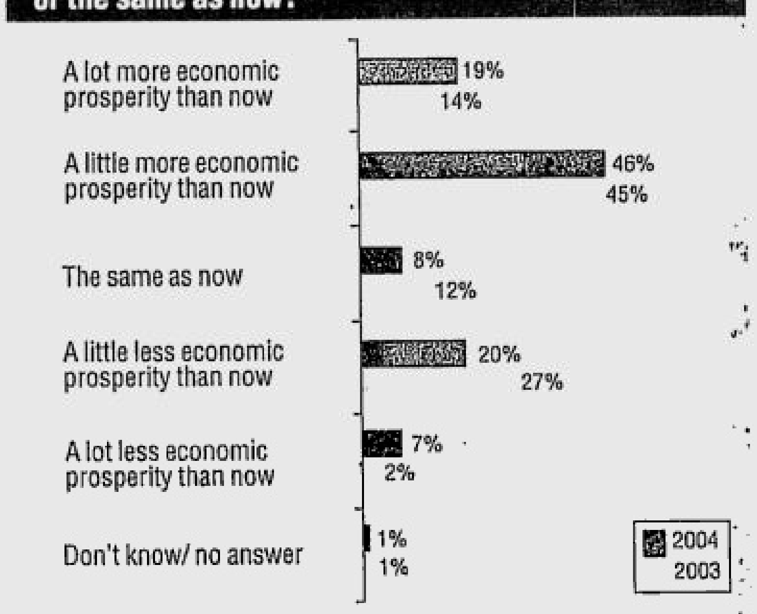
The corporate respondents are more likely than the media respondents to think that free flows of capital and labor mobility will be important.

Marked contrast

The Voice of the Leaders survey on future prosperity is in marked contrast to the view of the Voice of the People survey released last month.

While 65 percent of the leaders expect a more prosperous future, only 33 percent of the people surveyed expect more economic prosperity. About 36 percent of the people expect the economy to worsen, while only 27 percent of the leaders are similarly pessimistic.

Do you think the next generation will have more economic prosperity, less economic prosperity, or the same as now?



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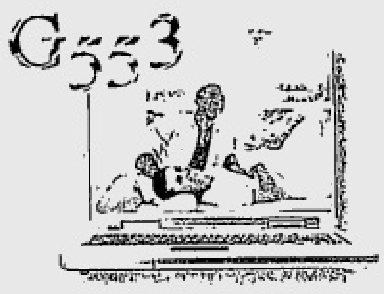

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CONDO / TOWNHOUSE

QUEZON CITY

LOT 1 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 84 sqm.
Unit P06, Penthouse, Prince Gregory Condominium, 12th Ave., Cubao
Minimum Bid Price: 2,500,000.00

LOT 2 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 35 sqm.
Unit 105 Ground flr., Xavierville Royale Condominium Bldg., Xavierville Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 3 - CONDO
Floor Area: 145 sqm.
Unit L Briclane Bricville Condo, #28 N. Domingo St., Brgy. Valencia
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

LOT 4 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area: 66.94 sqm.
Floor Area: 163 sqm.
Unit A, Macopa Mansions, No. 40, Macopa St., Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Sta. Mesa Heights
Minimum Bid Price: 3,700,000.00

LOT 5 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area: 77 sqm.
Floor Area: 135 sqm.
Unit 13, Boston Square Townhouse, No. 87 Boston St., Barangay Immaculate Concepcion, Cubao
Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

LOT 6 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area: 50 sqm.
Floor Area: 114 sqm.
Unit H, Cassanova Townhouse, Brgy. Culiat
Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00

LOT 7 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area: 137.84 sqm.
Unit 304, Woodland Townhomes, 5th Ave., Cubao
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

PASIG CITY

LOT 8 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 75.158
Unit 2508, 25th Floor, Renaissance Center 2000, Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center
Minimum Bid Price: 3,000,000.00

SAN JUAN

LOT 9 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 169.35
Unit 304, 3rd Floor, Goldhill Tower Condominium, No. 5 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price: 4,000,000.00

MANILA

LOT 10 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 164.53 sqm.
Unit 701, 7th Floor, Don Alfonso Condominium, UN Ave. cor. L. Guerrero & MH Del Pilar Sts., Ermita
Minimum Bid Price: 5,000,000.00

LOT 11 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 105.46 sqm.
Unit 1611, 16F Tytana Plaza Condo, San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo
Minimum Bid Price: 5,000,000.00

LOT 12 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 46.17 sqm.
Unit 701 Landsaaare 1 Mansion Espiritu cor.Don Pedro Sts.Singalong
Minimum Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

PARANAQUE

LOT 13 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 102.2 sqm.
Unit C-07, Makati South Hills Condominium, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

LOT 14 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 80 sqm.
Unit C-08, Makati South Hills Condominium, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price: 1,750,000.00

LOT 15 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 80 sqm.
Unit C-09, Makati South Hills Condominium, Brgy. San Martin De Porres
Minimum Bid Price: 1,750,000.00

LOT 16 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 60 sqm.
Unit 2004, 20th Floor, Bayview International Towers, Tower 2, Roxas Blvd., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 3,200,000.00

LOT 17 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area: 193.87 sqm.
Unit O, Tropicana Villa Condominium, No. 632 Quirino Ave., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 3,600,000.00

LOT 18 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area: 193.87 sqm.
Unit R, Tropicana Villa Condominium, No. 632 Quirino Ave., Brgy. Tambo
Minimum Bid Price: 3,600,000.00

LAS PINAS CITY

LOT 19 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area: 100 sqm.
Lot 36, Romulus St., La Segovia Townhouse, Villa Grande, BF Resort, Talon
Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000.00

PASAY CITY

LOT 20 - TOWNHOUSE
Floor Area: 62.5 sqm.
No. 22 Edsa Mansion 1, No. 670 EDSA, Brgy. San Roque
Minimum Bid Price: 3,125,000.00

MAKATI CITY

LOT 21 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 65 sqm.
Unit 19-N, 19th Floor, Burgundy Corporate Towers, Gil Puyat Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 4,800,000.00

LOT 22 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 158.25 sqm.
Unit 1706 B, 17th Floor, Three Salcedo Place, Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price: 12,500,000.00

LOT 23 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 63.75 sqm.
Unit 6D, 6th Floor, Classica Tower Condo., 114 HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price: 4,250,000.00

LOT 24 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 45 sqm.
Unit 1204, 12th Floor, Nobel Plaza Condo., 110 Valero St., Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price: 2,500,000.00

LOT 25 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 63.64 sqm.
Unit P8, Penthouse, Prince Tower, Tordesillas St., Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price: 2,500,000.00

LOT 26 - CONDO-RESD'L
Floor Area: 45 sqm.
Cluster 3, Unit 313, Makati Prime City Condo., 7708 St. Paul Rd., San Antonio Village
Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00

LOT 27 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 29.41 sqm.
Unit # 2116 Cityland 10 Tower 1, HV Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price: 950,000.00

LOT 28 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 35.01 sqm.
Unit 1811 Upper Penthouse Cityland 10 Tower II No.6817 Ayala Ave.,Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 29 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 33.14 sqm.
Unit 1818 Upper Penthouse Cityland 10 Tower II No.6817 Ayala Ave.,Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 30 - CONDO-OFFICE
Floor Area: 22.85 sqm.
Unit 2414 Upper Penthouse Cityland 10 Tower II No 6817 Ayala Ave.,Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00

LOT ONLY / LOT & IMPRVMNT

CALOOCAN CITY

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 187.5 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
No. 147 L. Nadurata cor. Massabelle Sts., Grace Park
Minimum Bid Price: 4,500,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 371 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk. 2 Everest St Mountain Hts.Subd.Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 440 sqm.
Road Lot 4, Saranay Homes, Brgy. Bagumbong
Minimum Bid Price: 825,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 298 sqm.
Lot 12 Yakal St., Silanganan Subd. Phase II, Brgy. Llano
Minimum Bid Price: 750,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 292 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 1 Oakland St., Vista Verde North, Phase 1-E, Brgy. Llano
Minimum Bid Price: 700,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 26, Gen. Isagani V. Campo St., Banker's Vill II
Minimum Bid Price: 700,000.00

LAS PINAS CITY

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 204 sqm.
No. 6 Carvaggio St., Venezia Homes, BF Resort Village
Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000.00

MAKATI CITY

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 126.3 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
No. 9556-B Taguig St., Brgy Valenzuela
Minimum Bid Price: 3,500,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT ONLY
WITHDRAWN

MALABON CITY

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 251 sqm.
Floor Area: 241 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 13 Willow St., Victoneta North Subd., Brgy. Potrero, Bo. Tinajeros
Minimum Bid Price: 4,200,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 285 sqm.
Floor Area: 156 sqm.
16 S. Del Rosario St., North Merville Park Subdivision, Phase 1, Dampalit
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00

MANDALUYONG CITY

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 200 sqm.
Floor Area: 165.25 sqm.
419 Busilak Street, Brgy. Barangka Drive
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 104.5 sqm.
Floor Area: 310 sqm.
No. 767 Katarungan corner Ma. Clara Streets, Plainview
Minimum Bid Price: 4,000,000.00

MANILA

LOT 44 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 224 sqm.
2412 Andrade St., Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

MARIKINA

LOT 45 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 252 sqm.
78 P. Burgos St., Sto Niño
Minimum Bid Price: 1,900,000.00

LOT 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 246 sqm.
42 (49) Interior Lazaro Street, Barangay Sto. Niño
Minimum Bid Price: 950,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 242.25 sqm.
Villaraza Compound, No. 22 Bayabas St., Twin River Subd. I Bo. Nangka
Minimum Bid Price: 1,050,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 100 sqm.
Lot 68-E-1 Malaya St
Minimum Bid Price: 450,000.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
Lot 16 Blk 11 St. Mary St., Sto. Niño Village,Brgy. Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price: 3,300,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 500 sqm.
Lot 9 BLk 7 Aragon St., Susana Heights Subd., Phase I
Minimum Bid Price: 3,500,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 346 sqm.
Blk 1 Lot 16 Cordillera St., Country Homes, Putatan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 126 sqm.
Floor Area: 96 sqm.
Lot 7 Emerald Hills Victoria Homes Subd., Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

NAVOTAS

LOT 53 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Floor Area: 216 sqm.
Road Lot 2,& Alley 1, Carville Subd., Bo Tanza
Minimum Bid Price: 1,600,000.00

PARANAQUE CITY

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 450 sqm.
No. 72 Washington St., Merville Park Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 5,300,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 263 sqm.
Lot 12, Blk. 1, Sheryl Mirra St. Multinational Village, La Huerta
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 150 sqm.
Floor Area: 119.12 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk. 1, Rd. Lot 2, Equity Homes IV, San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price: 1,050,000.00

PASIG CITY

LOT 57 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm.
No. 95 Fatima St., Buen-mar Subd., Manggahan,
Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00

LOT 58 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 157 sqm.
Floor Area: 161 sqm.
29 Road Lot 3, Doña Aurora Executive Village, Brgy. Santolan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,300,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 320 sqm.
No. 83 Harvard St., Cubao
Minimum Bid Price: 4,200,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 600 sqm.
No. 68 Mt. Fairweather St. Filinvest Homes I
Minimum Bid Price: 5,000,000.00

LOT 61 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 544 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 189 Geneva Gardens, Neopolitan Ph-VII Don Mariano, Marcos Avenue
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 150 sqm.
No. 431 Quirino Hi Way Talipapa
Minimum Bid Price: 3,000,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 460 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk. 5 Rd. Lot 2 cor. Rd. Lot 3, Sunny-side Heights Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 53 sqm.
Floor Area: 78.6 sqm.
Lot 3 Blk. 3 Dionisio Royale Exec. Homes, #38 Beethoven St., Brgy. Sauyo
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 65 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Floor Area: 332 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk. 7, Batangas cor. Kona St., Arbortowne Subd., Brgy. Karuhatan
Minimum Bid Price: 4,300,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 398 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 2, F. Lazaro St., Canumay
Minimum Bid Price: 1,500,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 305 sqm.
Floor Area: 540 sqm.
3rd St., Fredel Cmpd. Phase 2, Bo. Gen T. Deleon
Minimum Bid Price: 1,850,000.00

CAVITE CITY

LOT 68 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 450 sqm.
Lot 9, Blk 49, Desert Highland Loop, Manila Southwoods Phase II, Brgy Cabilang Baybay, Carmona
Minimum Bid Price: 3,100,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 360 sqm.
Floor Area: 331.5 sqm.
No. 512 Nuestra Señora Del Pilar St., Justinville II Subd Brgy. Palico, Imus
Minimum Bid Price: 2,600,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 260 sqm.
Lot 45 Palermo St., Town & Country West, Molino, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: 775,000.00

LOT 71 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 1,213 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
Purok 3, Bo. Bacao, Gen Trias
Minimum Bid Price: 1,900,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 500 sqm.
Floor Area: 131.5 sqm.
Interior Private Road, Brgy Mambog,Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: 1,600,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 271 sqm.
Floor Area: 113 sqm.
No 1026 Judge Solis Cor. Rodriguez Sts., Bo. San Antonio
Minimum Bid Price: 1,600,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 680 sqm.
Lot 55 Blk 2 Teresita St.Stateland Hills Subd.Brgy.Buenavista, Gen. Trias
Minimum Bid Price: 850,000.00

LAGUNA

LOT 75 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 252 sqm.
Floor Area: 84 sqm.
Lots 15 & 16 Blk 1, Lanzones St., San Jose Vill Ph.#4 Brgy. Binang, Binan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,800,000.00

LOT 76 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 100 sqm.
Floor Area: 92 sqm.
Lot 41 Blk 62 Cypress St., Laguna Bel Air Phase III, Don Jose, Sta. Rosa
Minimum Bid Price: 950,000.00

LOT 77 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 488 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 5 Amethyst St.,& Ironeville Ave.,St Francis IV Subd.,Halang Binan
Minimum Bid Price: 1,600,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 433 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
E. Taleon St., Brgy Santisima Cruz, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 2,080,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm.
Lot#13 (Rd Lot 39) Dinagat St. Southpoint, Subd. Brgy Niugan,Cabuyao
Minimum Bid Price: 450,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm.
Lot#11 (Rd.Lot 39) Dinagat St. Southpoint Subd. Brgy.Niugan,Cabuyao
Minimum Bid Price: 450,000.00

TAGAYTAY CITY

LOT 81 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,600 sqm.
Lot 10-A Macadam Rd., Brgy. Iruhin
Minimum Bid Price: 4,800,000.00

LOT 82 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 618 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 15, Road Lot 13 Hagdang Bato, Mendez Crossing East
Minimum Bid Price: 3,200,000.00

BATANGAS

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 360 sqm.
Floor Area: 162 sqm.
Lots 10, 11, 12, Blk 8, Rd Lot 7 Nuestra De Guia Subd., Bo. Manghinao (Poblacion 2) Bauan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,000,000.00

LOT 84 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 380 sqm.
Interior Apacible Blvd., Brgy. Remanente, Nasugbu
Minimum Bid Price: 1,250,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 460 sqm.
Road Lot 1, Villa Nene Subd., Bo. Sambat Ibaba & Calicanto
Minimum Bid Price: 1,300,000.00

BULACAN

LOT 86 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 2,560 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
Lot 43-C-2-B-2-B-4-F-2-B-4 and 7 Barangay Poblacion, Bustos
Minimum Bid Price: 4,200,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,109 sqm.
Lot#1 Along National Road, Brgy. Sto Cristo, Pulilan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,200,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 924 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
Lot #2 Along National Road, Brgy. Sto. Cristo, Pulilan
Minimum Bid Price: 2,500,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 625 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
Lots 5 to 9 Blk 1 Emerald St., Villa Cecilia Subd., Sto. Cristo
Minimum Bid Price: 3,000,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm.
Lot 15 and 17 Blk 3, Jade St., Villa Cecilia Subd., Sto. Cristo
Minimum Bid Price: 650,000.00

LOT 91 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 600 sqm.
Floor Area: 64 sqm.
Km. 41 Provincial Road, Brgy. Pulong Buhangin, Sta. Maria
Minimum Bid Price: 1,225,000.00

LOT 92 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 312 sqm.
Floor Area: 76 sqm.
Lot 4511-E-1-B-2 Better Living St. Bo. Bunducan, Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 93 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 376 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
Lot 1 Blk 18 Matatag St. Sapang Palay, SJDM
Minimum Bid Price: 800,000.00

LOT 94 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 813 sqm.
Floor Area: Various
Lot No. 2844-B Sta. Maria de Pandi Ext. Bo Bagbaguin,Pandi
Minimum Bid Price: 800,000.00

LOT 95 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 171 sqm.
Floor Area: 148 sqm.
Lot 11-B-1 Jose Benedicto St., Binang 2nd, Bocaue
Minimum Bid Price: 750,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 917 sqm.
Lot 2-F Along Right of Way Brgy.Poblacion, Marilao
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 97 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 19,026 sqm.
Lot 2095 Tilapatio San Ildefonso
Minimum Bid Price: 1,550,000.00

LOT 98 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 13,603 sqm.
Lots 2076 Tilapatio San Ildefonso
Minimum Bid Price: 1,750,000.00

LOT 99 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 400 sqm.
Lot 3624-C-1 Bo Camalig, Meycauyan
Minimum Bid Price: 600,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 5,764 sqm.
Lots 2343-D-2 & 2343-D-3-A Bo.Lambakin, San Miguel
Minimum Bid Price: 1,200,000.00

QUEZON

LOT 101 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 100 sqm.
Floor Area: 242 sqm.
No. 54 (Lot 6726-B) Legazpi St., Tayabas, Quezon
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 100 sqm.
Floor Area: 185 sqm.
Lot 6726-A M.H. Del Pilar St., corner Legazpi St., Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 500 sqm.
Floor Area: 230 sqm.
Along Brgy Rd. Brgy.Dalahican
Minimum Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

LOT 104 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 684 sqm.
Lot 2 & 5 Opal & Sapphire Sts, and Lot 11 Jade St., United Lucena Executive Village Kanlurang Mayao, Lucena
Minimum Bid Price: 1,300,000.00

LOT 105 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 180 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 24, Road Lot 10, Peninsula Subd., Brgy. Bebilo Lopez
Minimum Bid Price: 250,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 106 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm.
Lot 4 Michigan Bend, Palos Verdes Garden Heights, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 422 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 7 Banahaw cor. Apo Sts., Town & Country Hills Brgy. Inarawan, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 1,350,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 379 sqm.
No. 6 Road 23, Cogeo Village, Antipolo
Minimum Bid Price: 1,100,000.00

LOT 109 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1,375 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 4 Rd Lot 1 Assumption Subd. Bo.San Isidro, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 2,100,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 120 sqm.
No. 1513, Clover St., Cainta Greenland Subd., Phase 5 Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: 830,000.00

LOT 111 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: Various
Lots 7 & 8, Milagros Ave., Milagros Subdivision, Brgy. San Jose, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 1,650,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 297 sqm.
L-19, B-5, Dakota St. Brookside Hills Subd., Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: 1,400,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 954 sqm.
Azucena St.,Beverly Hills Subd.Dolores,Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: 1,550,000.00

LOT 114 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 600 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 3 Taktak Road, Brgy Sta.Cruz,Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 216 sqm.
Lot 10 Blk 15 Mercury St., Constellation Homes, Bo. San Isidro, Angono
Minimum Bid Price: 500,000.00

LOT 116 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 79 sqm.
Floor Area: 102 sqm.
Lot 9-B Villa Classica Townhouse, Sumulong Hi-way Mayamot, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 117 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 79 sqm.
Floor Area: 102 sqm.
Lot 9-C Villa Classica Townhouse, Sumulong Hi-way Mayamot, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 900,000.00

LOT 118 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 78 sqm.
Floor Area: 102 sqm.
Lot 9-E Villa Classica Townhouse, Sumulong Hi-way Mayamot, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 650,000.00

LOT 119 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 77 sqm.
Floor Area: 102 sqm.
Lot 9-F Villa Classica Townhouse, Sumulong Hi-way, Mayamot, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 650,000.00

LOT 120 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 95 sqm.
Floor Area: 127 sqm.
Lot 9-G Villa Classica Townhouse, Sumulong Hi-way Mayamot, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: 680,000.00

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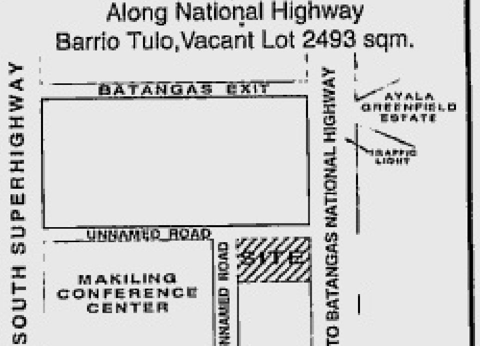

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In Loving Memory of our dearly beloved

MARIA "Bayang" F. FERNANDEZ

On the occasion of her 1st Death Anniversary
on December 6, 2004

Special Masses will be offered in the following Churches:

Sta. Maria della Strada Parish, Katipunan Avenue, Q.C. .... 6:00 AM
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Tarlac City .... 8:30 AM
Santissimo Rosario Church, UST, Manila .... 5:15 PM
Our Lady of Pentecost Parish, Loyola Heights, Q.C. .... 6:30 PM
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish, BF, Parañaque .... 6:30 PM
St. Joseph Parish, Pittsburgh, PA, USA .... 6:45 AM
St. Bernard's Church, Easton, PA, USA .... 8:00 AM
Mary of the Mountain Church, Virginia City, NV, USA .... 11:30 AM
St. Charles Borromeo Parish, LA, USA .... 12:00 NN

CRISPIN T. GUIVELONDO

of Valencia Negros Oriental & Puerto Princesa

Passed away in the Grace of the Lord on December 4, 2004 at the age of 83.

His bereaved wife **REBECCA NECESITO GUIVELONDO** of Asingan Pangasinan; daughter **GRETEL MAY GUIVELONDO**, Blanco Family, San Jose Family, Guivelondo Family, Salgado Family; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on December 9, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City at 1:30 p.m.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life, whoever believes in Me, though he dies, shall live."
John 11:25

In Loving Memory of

Antonio C. Delgado

Masses will be offered tomorrow, Tuesday on the 12th anniversary of his death, December 7, 2004

St. Jerome Church/Sta. Susana Parish .... 6:20 a.m.
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Our Lady of Perpetual Help .... 6:30 a.m.
(Redemptorist Church), Baclaran, Parañaque City
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish .... 6:30 a.m.
N. Garcia St. cor. Kalayaan Ave., Bel-Air II, Makati City
Our Lady of Mount Carmel .... 7:00 a.m. / 6:00 p.m.
Broadway Street, New Manila, Quezon City
Minor Basilica San Lorenzo Ruiz .... 7:30 a.m.
Binondo, Manila
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception .... 7:30 a.m.
(Manila Cathedral), Intramuros, Manila
Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage .... 8:00 a.m.
Antipolo, Rizal
Sto. Niño de Tondo Paris .... 8:00 a.m.
Tondo, Manila
Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene .... 12:15 p.m.
Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, Manila
Santuario de San Antonio .... 12:15 p.m.
McKinley Road, North Forbes Park, Makati City
St. James the Great .... 12:15 p.m.
Cuenca St., Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Makati Medical Center Chapel .... 4:00 p.m.
9F Makati Medical Center, Makati City
San Agustin Church .... 5:30 p.m.
Gen. Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila
St. John Bosco Parish .... 6:00 p.m.
Arnaiz Street, Makati City

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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So Lovingly Remembered
On the 22nd Death Anniversary of

JUDGE FELIPE TICZON ELEOSIDA

of San Pablo City and Kidapawan City

Holy Masses will be offered at the following Churches:

San Pablo Cathedral, *San Pablo City* 6:00 a.m.
Our Lady Mediatrix Church, *Kidapawan City* 5:45 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Church *Vista Verde, Cainta* 6:00 a.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose Church, *Greenhills* 6:00 a.m.
Isabella de Rocis Church, *Italy* 6:00 a.m.
St. Genevieve Church, *Panorama City* 6:00 a.m.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NORBERTO E. ABODON has been extrajudicially settled with an affidavit of self adjudication by his heirs as per docs 89 & 90 ; page 18; book3 ; Series of 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Jocelyn A. Ratuita

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Camp John Hay Golf Club Stock Cert under the name of JIM-MAR INDS INC (Jimson L Cham). If no contest received new cert will be issued. (PDI - Nov 29, Dec 6 & 13, 2004)

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(PDI – Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

IN THE MATTER OF THE PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED INCOME FUND, INC.
-Registrant-

SEC-CFD ORDER NO. 166
SERIES OF 2004

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto filed for and on behalf of PRUDENTIALIFE FIXED INCOME FUND, INC. the Commission in its meeting of November 25, 2004 resolved to approve the registration of said corporation as an investment company under the Investment Company Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and to render effective its Registration Statement covering its Two Hundred Million (200,000,000) common shares under the Securities Regulation Code.

A Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities For Sale authorizing the sale of said securities is issued with this Order.

Let this ORDER be published at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two-(2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from date hereof. The corporation is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this ORDER.

SO ORDERED.

EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines

25 November 2004

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI–Dec 3 & 6, 2004)

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Hackers deface PAL website

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) website fell victim last week to a mass defacement done by a hacker group called "kernel_attack."

According to a post on a the weblog (www.phackers.org) of the Internet Security and Warfare (ISAW), "This group is believed to be from Brazil. In one day alone, Zone-h recorded 47 attacks by this group." ISAW monitors hacking attacks in the Philippines.

Kernel_attack was among the top 50 defacers based on a ranking at zone-h.org, a website that keeps track of hacking attacks internationally.

The PAL website was down for more than 36 hours, according to Robert Diaz de Rivera, PAL senior assistant vice president for corporate e-business.

The PAL website is used by travelers to book flights using their credit cards, check promos, and log on to their account if they are members of the airline's frequent flyers club.

Rivera, however, assured that the foreign hackers managed to deface only the homepage and the "unsecured" web pages of PAL website. The airlines' database, including its online frequent flier and e-ticketing system, was unaffected. The PAL website was unavailable for most of the day Tuesday last week after the defacement. It was operating normally Wednesday.

US-based NTT Verio is the website host of PAL. The airlines uses a content management system to update the website's homepage every day, he said.

Fortunately, PAL received only a "few e-mail complaints" from customers following the web defacement. The "monetary" damage to the airline's website was "minimal," the executive added.

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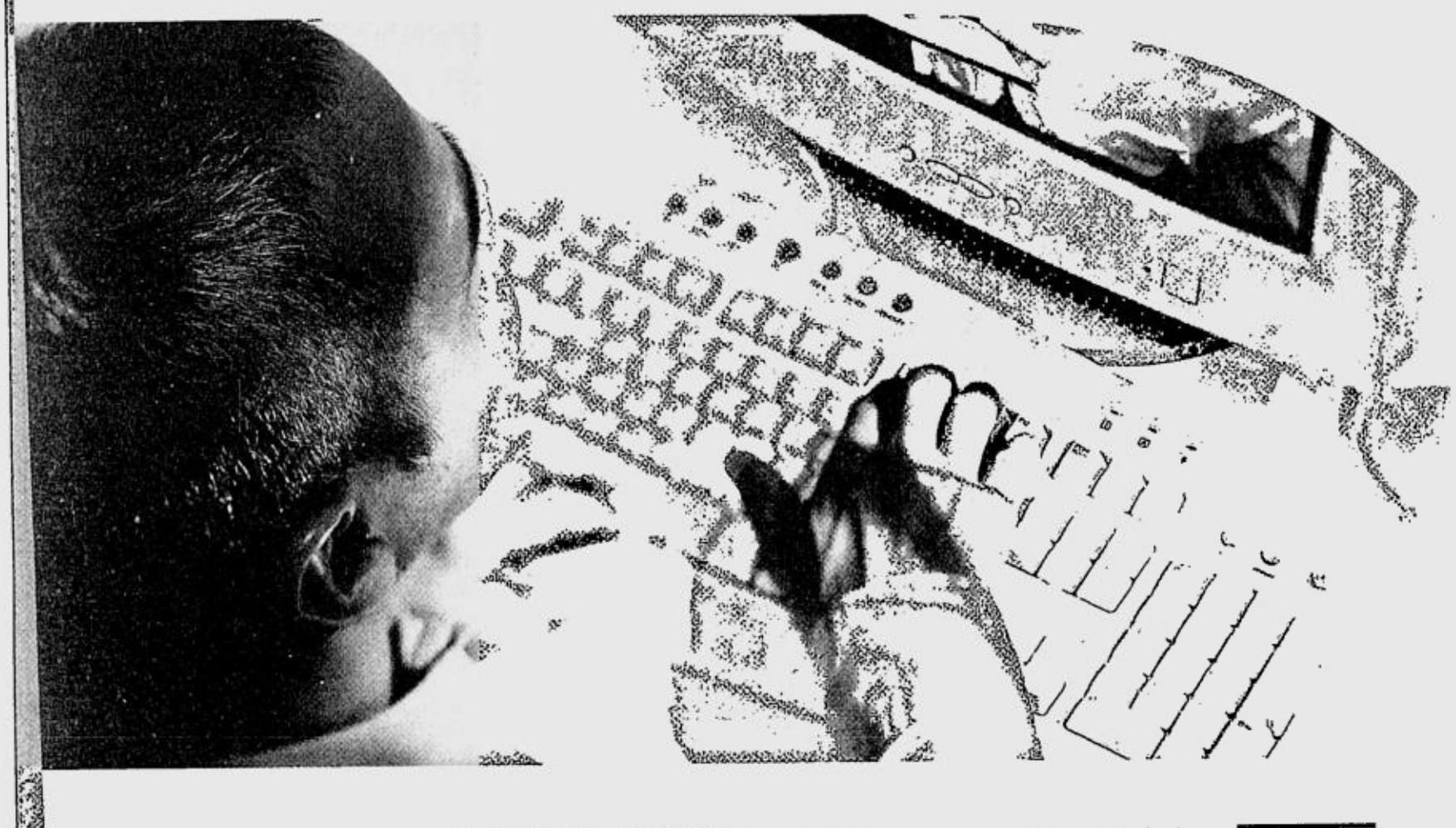

PEOPLE'S PC

"Technology is the foundation of future economic development," said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address earlier this year.

"Technology is the foundation of future economic development"

In line with her ten-point agenda for national development, President Arroyo has tapped several government organizations to "modernize and disseminate knowledge to upgrade technologies and increase people's productivity."

To follow through on this point, the Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICT) was formed to embark on programs and projects that would increase the rate of PC Technology awareness and adoption across key sectors of the country. The People's PC program launched last month with Intel®, the world's largest chipmaker, is the latest in a series of initiatives by the CICT.

The People's PC program is the first personal computer ownership program in the Philippines and aims to make affordable, high-quality PCs available to all Filipinos.

"We are fully committed to assisting the government in its PC Ownership Program," said Intel Microelectronics, Phils., Inc. Country Manager Ricky Banaag.

"We want to improve and enhance the lives of Filipinos so they can be productive," said Banaag as he emphasized Intel's wish to enable Filipinos with the tools they need to experience technology. "With the right tools such as a desktop PC with an Intel processor, Filipinos will be able to fully optimize their time, energy and skills."

"We want to improve and enhance the lives of Filipinos so they can be productive"

"Intel is fully committed to assisting the government in its PC Ownership Program"

Intel microprocessors – the brain and engine of a PC that determines its speed and power - have been at the heart of the PC revolution for over 20 years now. As such, Intel is constantly innovating because it believes the technology we invent today will shape the world's future.

If you are interested in acquiring a People's PC, please visit any branch of PC Express, Silicon Valley, VillMan and Thinking Tools.

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This program is in collaboration with the Philippine government and

COMMISSION ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

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'Blog' enters the dictionary

BLOG, a contraction of the term "web log," is the latest geekspeak to enter Merriam-Webster's Top-10 list of words for 2004.

On its website, the US dictionary publisher said blog, defined as "a website that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments and often hyperlinks provided by the writer," was the most searched word on the Internet this year.

Merriam-Webster compiles the list each year. This year, "blog" was the number one word in "online look-ups."

Blog or blogging is a recent phenomenon that has made website publishing easier. Popular blog hosting services, such as blogspot.com, have spawned millions of personal blogs that contains every imaginable subject matter.

People create blogs to spread news and gossip, critique media and even share photos with friends. Media and corporations have used blogs to provide updated views on various issues affecting them.

Recently, blogging has spawned so-called MP3blogs that feature free sample music in MP3 format, personal reviews, and links to online stores.

Blog will be a new entry in the 2005 version of the Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition. The complete list of words of the year is available at Merriam-Webster.com.

John Barger coined the term "web log" in December 1997. In 1999, Peter Merholz coined the shorter version "blog."

Usage of the word spread during 1999 and the word was popularized by Pyra's creation of their weblog service "Blogger."

As of March 2003, the Oxford English Dictionary has included the terms weblog, weblogging and weblogger. *Erwin Oliva*

Home theater in a box

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

I THINK the Asus W1000 (W1N in other markets) should stay on a table and be used as a home theater device—probably because it is one. The monitor is just 15.4" but is designed for wide-screen use. It has a 16:10 aspect ratio, which is the same as the widescreen movies in DVDs. There is little glare and the video quality is nearly as good as that of an LCD or even a plasma TV. It is also outfitted with a 64 megabyte ATI Mobility Radeon 9600 graphics engine. There is very little lag even when playing DVDs or even the most memory-intensive game. There is a VGA port and a 15-pin mini D-sub socket for connecting an external monitor or the TV.

It also comes with four stereo speakers on the top panel and a down firing subwoofer underneath the body. These speakers, however, show noticeable distortion in certain audio frequencies. Still, I consider that as a trade-off since they are built into a tightly packed case. Its bass reproduction is still better than most notebooks in the same class. The sound is crisp enough for you to hear the booms, bangs and rumbles. The notebook also includes an auxiliary audio connector and an S/PDIF socket for attachment to a surround speaker setup or to an amplifier. It is also good to know that Asus included a credit-card sized remote control so you don't have to reach for the keyboard when you're already enjoying a film.

The W1000 comes with an Intel Pentium 1.7GHz Centrino processor and an 855 chipset for wireless connectivity. It also has 512 megabytes of memory. Storage includes 80 gigabytes of hard disk, a 4-speed DVD writer and an integrated card reader for portable SD, MMC and memory sticks. The usual clicking and whirring sounds heard in most notebooks' hard disk and DVD drive are absent in this notebook. They also do not overheat as fast. The internal cooling fans are also efficient and are quiet.

The W1000 is no laggard when it comes to battery. At full charge, the unit could last three and a half hours when idle.

Overall, the Asus W1000 is best described as a mobile home theater system and a head-turner. The W1000 trails behind in some hardware features. But what it lacks in some physical specifications, it makes up for its home theater features.

BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

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WHAT GOV'T NEEDS TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN

Surplus of political will, deficit of politics

By Rene G. Banez
Contributor

SIXTEEN tax measures are pending with the House of Representatives. Two were recently passed and transmitted to the Senate. Two are calendared for plenary debate. And the rest are still pending with the ways and means committee. It is expected that Congress will approve at least four to five measures on or before May 2005. With a threat of a downgrade rating, the Executive is urging Congress to pass at least two measures before the year ends.

All of these measures are intended to generate estimated revenues of P80 billion or roughly 2 percent increase in the tax effort ratio to gross domestic product (GDP).

The twin fiscal problems that we face now are the budget deficit and the increasing public sector debt. Addressing these problems requires immediate attention and decisive action. The political leadership must be prepared in making hard, difficult, fearless, uncompromising and even unpopular decisions. We cannot afford no less.

What are the rating agencies looking for in government in response to these issues?

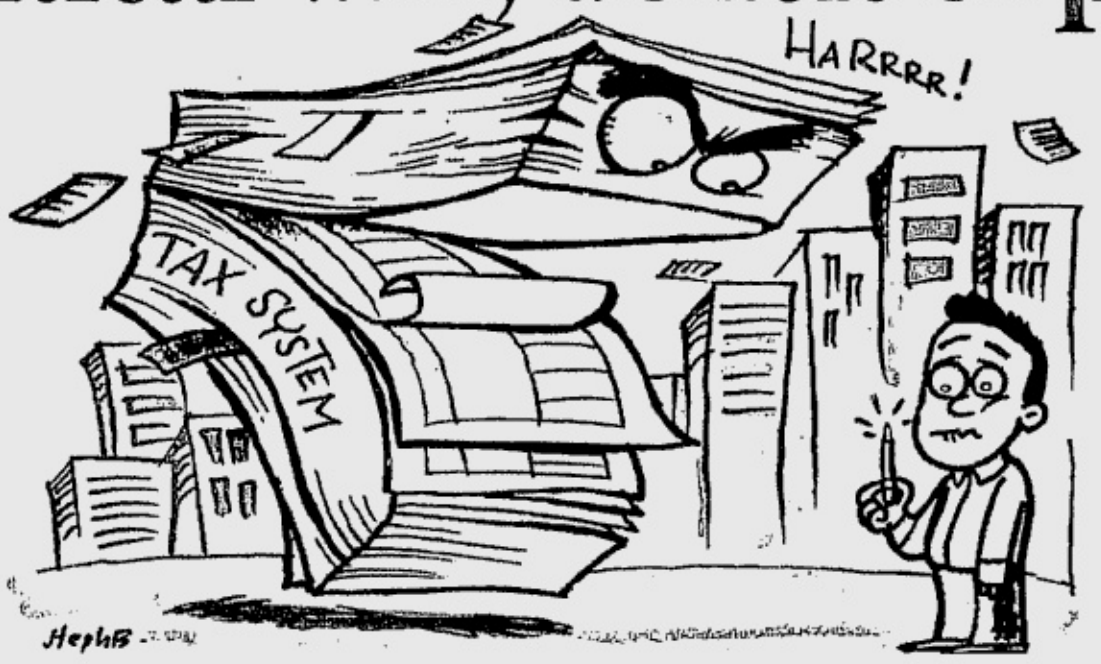
My educated guess is that government should put in place a sustainable tax system that will generate the desired revenues and contribute to achieving a balanced budget within a period of four to six years.

Sustainable tax system

The big question is how do we create a sustainable tax system?

Let us first examine what we have. I believe that we face two serious tax problems: low tax compliance and weak tax enforcement. These two problems are brought about by having a complicated tax system. Our system of taxation in the country is a self-assessment system which means that it is incumbent upon a person earning an income to declare his income and pay the correct tax. However, since our tax system is complicated and has many loopholes, tax compliance becomes difficult and taxpayers take advantage of avoiding and even evading their tax liabilities. Moreover, the complication of the tax system makes tax administration and enforcement more difficult. This problem is further compounded by many institutional constraints facing the tax regulatory agencies.

We can address the problem by making our tax system simple. But how simple is simple? At the moment, I will not dwell on the specifics and mechanics. I will limit my discourse on the philosophy of the problem. A simple tax system should have simple tax rules and processes, with simple requirements, simple and easy-to-fill tax returns, and simple and convenient way of payment. These should be complemented by improving taxpayers' service, i.e. assisting taxpayers on how they should comply. With a simple tax system, it is expected that administration will be easier and enforcement more effective, and tax compliance better.



Evaluating the measures

I propose the following criteria be considered in evaluating whether the proposed tax measures merit approval.

1. Simple. The tax law should be simple so that taxpayers understand the rules and can comply correctly and in a cost-efficient manner, and simply administered at the least cost to the government.

2. Fair. Similarly situated taxpayers should be taxed similarly but equitably.

3. Enforceable. The tax law should be implementable. A tax law is good only when it is enforced.

4. Predictable. The tax system should enable the government to determine how much tax revenue will be collected and when they will be collected.

5. Sustainable. The tax system should be capable to collect the desired revenue for government for a much longer period.

Proposed measures

Let me just provide brief comments on some of the proposed tax measures.

The lateral attrition bill is laudable in its objectives but it suffers some serious defects on how to realize its objectives. It is a carrot and stick bill which proposes to reward performers and penalize non-performers. But how do we encourage performance? Is government providing the proper resources and the right incentives for government people to perform? To exact performance, you need to give the right tools and sufficient resources, the appropriate incentives, with the right processes, with the right people, with the right competencies and with a lean and mean organization. To make people accountable you have to measure their performance.

This will not be the first time that we will have a legislated amnesty if ever Congress approves it. Why legislate if the objective is simply to raise revenues? Can not our regulatory agencies offer similar amnesties though administrative in nature? What is the real reason behind this bill? A revisit of the past administrations will show that all have some form of tax amnesties, legislated or administrative. With all these tax amnesties, have we improved our capacities to monitor the sources of income of taxpayers and seen to it that they pay the correct taxes? Perhaps one explanation why we have low tax compliance is because taxpayers anticipate future tax amnesties. Tax amnesty is not the answer to our declining revenues. The answer is to overhaul our tax system.

The growth of the telecommunications industry in the country is phenomenal. The industry players are performing well because they are well managed. And they are doing their share in national development through the taxes that they

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Nurture the good to create an asset

By Amy R. Remo

MANAGING over a thousand sales agents and keeping them competent and loyal to the company is no easy feat. Specially if the survival of the company relies heavily on them.

This is why, according to Cocoplans president Caesar T. Michelena, the company treats its sales people as customers.

"At Cocoplans, we treat sales people as our internal customers, while plan holders are our external customers," Michelena tells the INQUIRER.

Set up in October 1994, Cocoplans is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the United Coconut Planters Bank Group. It sells pension and educational plans and ranks among the top ten in the pre-need industry.

"A pre-need company is like a marketing company—its most important ingredient for success is having a strong and productive sales organization," says Michelena, who explains that sales people are also the front liners of the company, who create and maintain relationships with clients.

MICHELENA

Unfortunately, most companies view sales people as those who will not last in an organization. As a result, they are not provided with adequate training and sufficient materials.

Since they are not regular employees and earn only on a commission basis, they can leave the company anytime they want.

This kind of thinking, according to Michelena, has been the premise of the industry.

"It's a self-fulfilling prophecy. If you believe that they will not last, your behavior towards them will show it," says Michelena. "You get what you expect."

Setting a standard

Cocoplans, however, opted to break away from this norm.

"I believe one of the standards we've set is about dealing with sales people," explains Michelena. "We're looking for a long term commitment and this is where we base most of our business practices."

He says they are very stringent in their admission of sales people. Only about 30 percent of the applicants are admitted.

Each applicant attends an orientation and a five-session trial period. He then undergoes several interviews, one of which is conducted by Michelena himself.

If a sales associate does not reach his monthly quota for six consecutive months, they take him out.

"This may seem contradictory about our wanting to have a long-term commitment. But we also have a standard they need to meet, so they can stay with us," he says.

"Another standard we have set was the full computerization of the company, which was uncommon in 1994," says Michelena.

Back then, when the top of the line computer was an Intel 486 and most programs are still DOS-based, a lot of fresh graduates were still not familiar with the computer.

"But we needed the efficiency of the computer to avoid the menial clerical tasks. Employees would have more time for more productive tasks," he says.

He adds that Cocoplans was probably one of the first in the pre-need industry

NURTURE/ B2-3

FROM left: Alejandro Padilla, member of the foundation's board of directors; Jaza and Patti Lyons

Jaza conferred Humanitarian Service Award

AYALA Corp. president/CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II (Jaza) was recently conferred the Consuelo Award for Humanitarian Service by Consuelo Foundation president and CEO Patti J. Lyons.

Jaza heads the oldest, largest and most diversified business conglomerate in the Philippines. As co-vice chair of the Ayala Foundation, he has been active in developing the Ayala Youth Leadership Program and Centex. He is vice chair of the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation, the World Wildlife Fund, and the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). He spearheaded the Children's Hour millennium campaign that raised millions for disadvantaged children and youth. As chair of the Children and Youth Foundation of the Philippines in its formative years, he was instrumental in shaping the Philippine Out-of-School-Youth Program, a joint initiative of the Ayala Corp., Consuelo Foundation and the World Bank. Jaza earned his BA degree in Economics (cum laude) from Harvard University in 1981, and his MBA from the Harvard Business School in 1987.

The four recipients of the Humanitarian Service Awards were cited by the Consuelo Foundation for their "unwavering commitment to the cause of improving the lives of Filipino children, women, families and communities" as well as "their dedication and devotion to both Consuelo Foundation's mission and to many other NGOs, deeply felt and appreciated throughout the country."

The three other recipients of the Consuelo Awards for Humanitarian Service are: Ambassador Bienvenido Tan Jr., Unionbank chair and CEO Justo Ortiz and Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) director Dr. Mary Racelis. Also given at the ceremonies were the Consuelo Award of Distinction and the Consuelo Award of Highest Excellence.

Surplus ...

From page B2-1

they are doing well, the government wants them to give more than what they are currently paying. The proposal is to impose franchise tax on their income apart from the 10 percent value added tax (VAT). Is this fair and equitable?

The other proposal is to replace VAT with franchise tax. More than 10 years ago, the franchise tax was replaced by VAT. VAT has been regarded as the superior business tax system. Tax experts worldwide claim the rise of the VAT is an unparalleled tax phenomenon. Every continent now uses the VAT, and each year sees new countries introducing it. In fact, the United States is seriously considering VAT to replace their sales tax. The audit mechanism of the output-input feature of the VAT can easily provide the revenue authority an effective tool to further increase its collections. This benefit should be maximized and further improved. Will this initiative of replacing the VAT system widen the tax base or simply complicate tax compliance and enforcement? The message is, if ain't broke don't fix it. The question is, why penalize companies which are doing well?

Remove discretion

I witnessed in many occasions the ups and downs of excise tax reform in our country. We will never have real excise tax reform unless we remove the sources of discretion of both the excise taxpayers and enforcers. The key is the removal of the different categories of products in the law. By doing this, we will simplify both tax compliance and enforcement.

A review of the various tax proposals will indicate that there is no comprehensive and holistic work plan to address the fiscal problem. It also demonstrates that government has no right diagnosis of the extent of the problem. I believe this is what these rating agencies and our creditors are looking for. Unless they are convinced that the proposed tax measures are the right prescriptions to our country's fiscal malady, a downgrade in our rating is expected. We can still avert this scenario if we do the right thing and soon. Our fiscal problem necessitates bold and holistic approach. The solutions should be sustainable. I believe that our government is still capable of making things happen if we have a deficit of politics and surplus of political will.

Recently, the Supreme Court has bravely demonstrated its political will in reversing itself and upholding the constitutionality of the mining law. Now, it is the turn of the President and Congress. The people are watching. They have faith in you. Please do not fail us. But ALL of us must do OUR share if we are to move our country forward. And the time is NOW.

(The author is a former commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue)

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Nurture . . .

From page B2-2

to be fully computerized at that time.

Covey's principles

All employees and sales people are also required to take the "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" seminar, which Michelena personally conducts.

With his more than 20 years of experience in sales, Michelena also applies the key principles espoused by Stephen Covey, renowned author of The 7 Habits, in order to better understand the needs of his sales force.

He especially believes in the principle that says people are inherently good.

Michelena explains you have to look at a person as a whole. You have to take the good with the bad and nurture this good part so it'll be an asset to your company. That's the premise for every individual—that they are normally trustworthy.

"If you deal with people with this frame of mind, I believe that the inherent goodness would come out," says Michelena.

They have, however, rules and controls to maintain standards. But they make sure that these do not stifle the individual. The slightest hint of hanky panky is dealt with seriously.

Aside from having a code of discipline, the company has a committee on sales discipline to take care of complaints against the sales people.

Michelena also believes in another principle espoused by Covey, which says that competition, by itself, is not good. Each department and branch in an organization should be interdependent.

Michelena says very few of their incentives are competition-based. Most incentives are awarded to those who hit certain performance levels. One of the few contests Cocoplans has is the Annual Performance Excellence Award, to recognize the year's best sales performers.

"I don't encourage internal competition like which branch yields the highest number of planholders," says Michelena. "People shouldn't aim to outdo each other within an organization."

Competition with other players in the industry, of course, is another thing.

Cocoplans today

Michelena admits income is not as good nowadays for the whole pre-need industry because the economy is not doing good.

Also, certain new regulations set by the Securities and Exchange Commission are hurting the industry such as the trust fund assumption.

But Michelena is optimistic that the company will grow by 58 percent in sales this year and targets to grow by almost 100 percent next year.

Last year, Cocoplans made about 24 percent return on equity and is expecting about 22 percent for this year. The reason for this, he says, is that Cocoplans is not hurting as much as the rest with the new rules in place.

He adds while many companies are reeling the new regulations, Cocoplans is not as affected since it has been implementing some of these new rules ever since.

"It is good to know that we've done our basic foundational work at the start. Like in the story of the three little pigs, we made sure our house was built with rocks. Although we are affected, we know we will not collapse," says Michelena.

He adds: "This makes us now the company of choice. Who knows, we may become No. 1 in the future. It is not, however, an objective but rather consequence of providing good service to clients."

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Full Year Return from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2003*		8.4%	31.5%	39.8%

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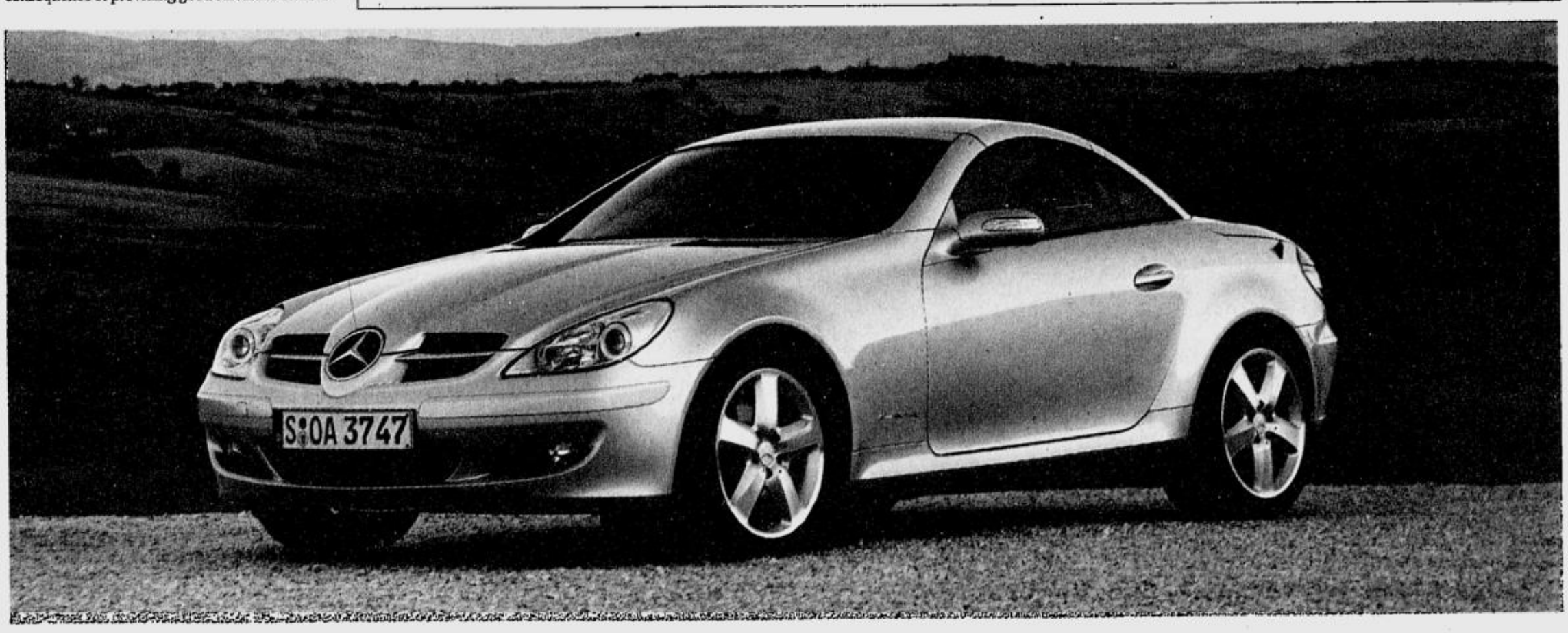

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BUSINESS Monday

Practical wisdom from the MAP conference

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Franco G. del Rosario

MANY businesses are experiencing severe difficulties during this prolonged economic crisis and from growing intense competition of globalization.

In fact, many firms are forced to make tough decisions to brace themselves for the future and for some, their very own survival.

Recognizing the major issues of many CEOs, the MAP, together with Smart, co-presented the third in a series of CEO conferences, "Survive and Excel in Turbulent Times" with a line-up consisting of some of the best minds in the subject.

The conference attracted a bumper crop of 425 delegates, the highest ever in the history of the MAP CEO Conference.

BBC's Rico Hizon gave a most creative presentation, as he made us feel as though we were at the British television studios with him while he was giving us the scoop on the Philippine economy.

Instead of a single viewpoint, Rico gave us different insights culled from video clips of interviews with the region's economists.

All in all, the conference was given extremely high marks by the delegates. Delegates ranked the MAP CEO Conference as either excellent or very good in the categories of theme (98 percent); speakers (94 percent); and topics (90 percent).

Dr. Frank Ashby

One of the speakers that received outstanding marks in the delegates evaluations was the featured conference speaker, Dr. Frank Ashby. He shared the following four out of 10 findings conducted in 26 countries by the University of Michigan with other consulting firms and the Wall Street Journal.

1. The single biggest complaint of workers have about their managers is they're unappreciative.

2. The most commonly observed characteristic of outstanding organizational cultures is an above-average investment in employee training.

3. When operating in turbulent, uncertain times, most people tend to become more self-centered and self-absorbed.

4. Those that excel in turbulent, uncertain times tend to be all of the following:

- Get good at sensing opportunity amid the chaos.
- Become more flexible and more accepting of inevitable changes.
- Place a premium on demonstrating strong, visionary leadership and establishing clear objectives.

Get mileage at no cost

I would like to address two from the above list. Personally, I feel the single biggest issue that can give you a lot of mileage that does not cost anything is showing more appreciation. Perhaps it would be relevant to mention some guidelines in giving praise.

First rule is that it must be done sincerely! Insincere praise is worse than no praise at all. It insults the receiver, cheapens the speaker's comments and causes loss of credibility.

Second, give praise on time. It is not "Better late than never"; instead communicate praise shortly after the act. Praise should be based on specifics, as it gives words more substance, enforces the outcomes to nurture.

For example, "Your report was effective and to the point." It should not be, "You're a great person."

Third, praise in public. Recognizing a person in the presence of their peers gives it more impact and encourages others to do better.

Give people freedom

The other issue I wish to address is the third in the same 4-point listing above, "during turbulent and uncertain times most people tend to become more self-centered and self-absorbed." Our tendency to become more dictatorial may come out more with the uncertainty. We may fall into thinking, "we know best." This has a demoralizing effect on people.

Involve, include, invite

We need to understand clearly our organization's culture. Instead of spoon feeding each step to our people, it may be better for us to instill in them a desire for excellence. Creating a condition where employees say what's on their mind would reduce our tendency to be an autocrat.

If we give people greater freedom to decide how to do one's work, or at least allow them to propose ideas and implement meaningful changes in their work, this will make them feel they "own" their work. Only people who own their work, really care and get excited doing it.

The key is to clarify the objectives; then, step aside and provide support and guidance when needed. If our staff knows their boundaries, they will help ensure control and consistency.

Rather than being self-absorbed, we need to have unwavering faith that our firm will prevail regardless of the difficulty. We need to look for ways to involve, include and invite our people to do better still with every triumph.

Lastly, let's not forget to use our creativity in trying to make work fun as much as possible, particularly during turbulent times. An atmosphere of fun will reduce the tension and keep our people's morale high!

Remember, it is within the power of Filipinos to mold the future. Our naturally endowed country can be as great as we make it! No crisis is beyond the capacity of our people to solve; no challenge too great!

CEO survey

I wish to thank everyone who attended the conference and a special thanks to those that participated in the "CEO Survey." The purpose was to find out the kind of issues the delegates were dealing with.

There are five key points from the CEO survey. One, to survive turbulent times, many companies are finding themselves having to make people-related changes. Most fall in the category of "getting right people on the bus," "getting wrong people off the bus," "putting them in right seats."

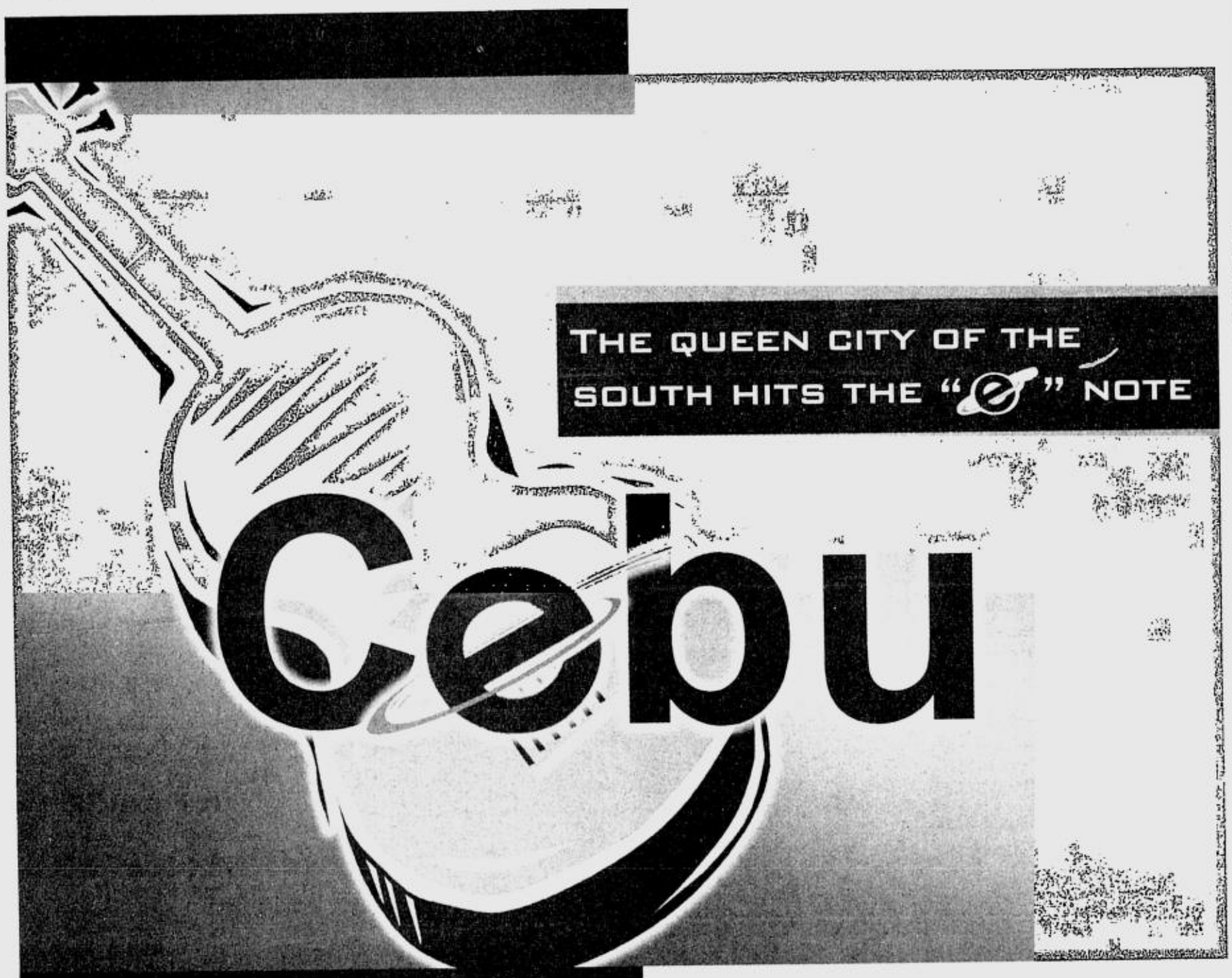
It appears that there were also those preparing to get wrong people off the bus. They indicated revising their performance appraisal systems such as making their compensation structure more performance driven.

Two, the delegates gave right people, excellence, vision and customer service as the top four items they were most passionate about. Three, nine out of 10 of the 192 conference delegates that participated in the survey said their No. 1 frustration was wrong people in their bus. Four, it's encouraging to note that the attendees are not "victim mentality" people. Only 20 percent offered the poor economy as their No. 1 frustration, followed by 15 percent who were most frustrated finding the right people.

Five, the delegates identified a total of 46 business opportunities. The single biggest business opportunity was outsourcing, largely owing to the Philippines as a source of an inexpensive but experienced and English speaking labor which is seen by many foreign firms as a prime country advantage to increase their bottom line.

The conference was full of positive energy, as the messages of the speakers brought new revelations and opportunities to the delegates. People came away enriched, feeling upbeat and filled with a new zeal and hope as the speakers challenged them to reach farther, ready to make a difference.

(The author is chair of the MAP CEO Conference Committee and managing consultant and CEO of Six Sigma Consulting. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)



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BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Make bosses and workers see eye to eye

HOW DO we bring out the best in employees? How do you make them embrace the concepts of quality and excellence at work freely?

For the country's workforce to compete globally, perhaps the Employee Council Association of the Philippines (Ecap) Foundation Inc. can help in enabling employees reach their potential by empowering them to contribute positively to the betterment of the company. This is possible only when employees can identify with the company they belong to and enjoy a sense of ownership of their jobs.

For six years now, Ecap has been adhering to the principle of partnership between employers and employees by creating employee councils or ECs. An EC is an association within a company that regards employees within as partners and associates enjoined to work for a common goal.

Conceptually unique, an EC, invariably called a family council or employee relations' council, has its own structure, system and philosophy.

As a structure, all employees in the company have an equal opportunity to be selected as employee council representatives (ECRs). The president or CEO of the company, himself considered an employee, is represented in the council through the senior management representative and a management appointee.

As a system, it has a charter that defines the principles and dynamics that will govern interaction between managers and employees. As a philosophy, it follows the tradition unique to Filipinos, the *bayanihan*, which is not just helping others in need but embodies commitment, mutual support, unity and servant leadership.

"An EC is a pro-active approach to human relations which is an idea whose time has come," according to Ecap Founding president Gloria "Gerlie" B. Soriano, an organizational development (OD) consultant for 24 years and exposed to quality management and practices via her membership with the Philippine Society for Quality and the Asia Pacific Quality Organization.

"EC brings true empowerment of the employees because they are treated as partners or associates, not just as one of the factors of production," she pointed out. It is in this principle of "shared servant leadership," she added, that employees become productive, and hence, able to deliver quality products or services.

An outstanding feature of the organization is its charter, which works inherently with an ethics system in place of the traditional grievance system. "Ethics is everything that governs the civilized relations or people. Here we are not just focusing on the rights of the employees, but their accountability for their jobs," she said.

Another is the welfare and benefits program. "In EC, we don't talk money because it's assumed that management knows its obligations under the law but we do have a welfare and benefits program. In listing the welfare and benefits, the council thinks of the common good done through a survey in the entire company," she said.

Ecap has been introducing this concept for interested companies, which they can adopt, she emphasized, as a "strategic choice" to help them manage their affairs with their employees. Any company with no formal employees association can form an EC and be a member of Ecap. Organizing an EC involves a simple process: orientation, selection of officers, leadership workshop, writing of charter and strategic planning. Monitoring, implementation and evaluation cap the process.

Once the EC is in place, the company becomes a member of the association. The company is represented in the association by its EC chair and vice chair for external affairs. Ecap, in turn, helps in the growth of the members by continuous programs such as quality management workshops, leadership training, counseling, coaching, sharing best practices, legal education, and fellowships.

Some of the member-companies of Ecap have reported amazing changes in their operations since making a "strategic choice" to build an EC within their organizations.

One of these is East West Bank, which, from a relatively short period of 10 years, has become one of the fast growing full service commercial banks in the country, with more than P20 billion in assets and 64 branches serving a client base of more than 140,000 to date.

EWB president and CEO Elrey T. Ramos attributes this astounding growth to its employees.

"The bank, through an ERC, has created an environment wherein employees can freely express their views, opinions and concerns without fear or reprisal," he said.

Another company, SC&C Cosmetech Co., attests to the value of EC. The company, a manufacturer of quality products in the healthcare industry, has already won eight prestigious Supplier of the Year Award and has over the years kept on expanding. From a 200 square meters factory, it now operates a 3,000-sq.m. factory "They are well motivated and well trained to meet the very strict quality standards of our customers. We have an Employee Council where people's welfare, are given importance," SC&C Cosmetech president Roberto Serrano said.

For inquiries on Ecap, call (0920) 920-2388 or email gloria8888ph@yahoo.com.

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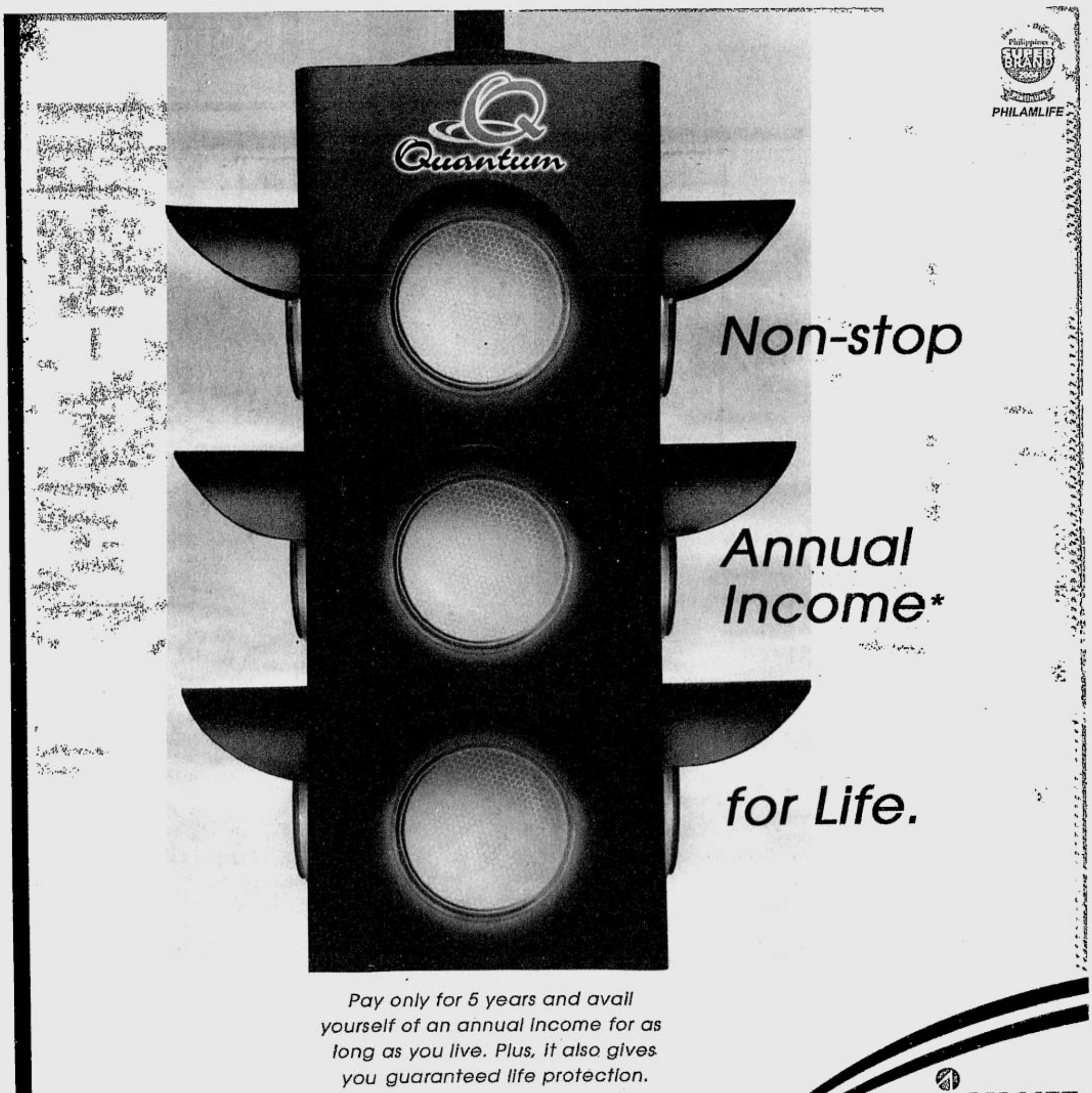

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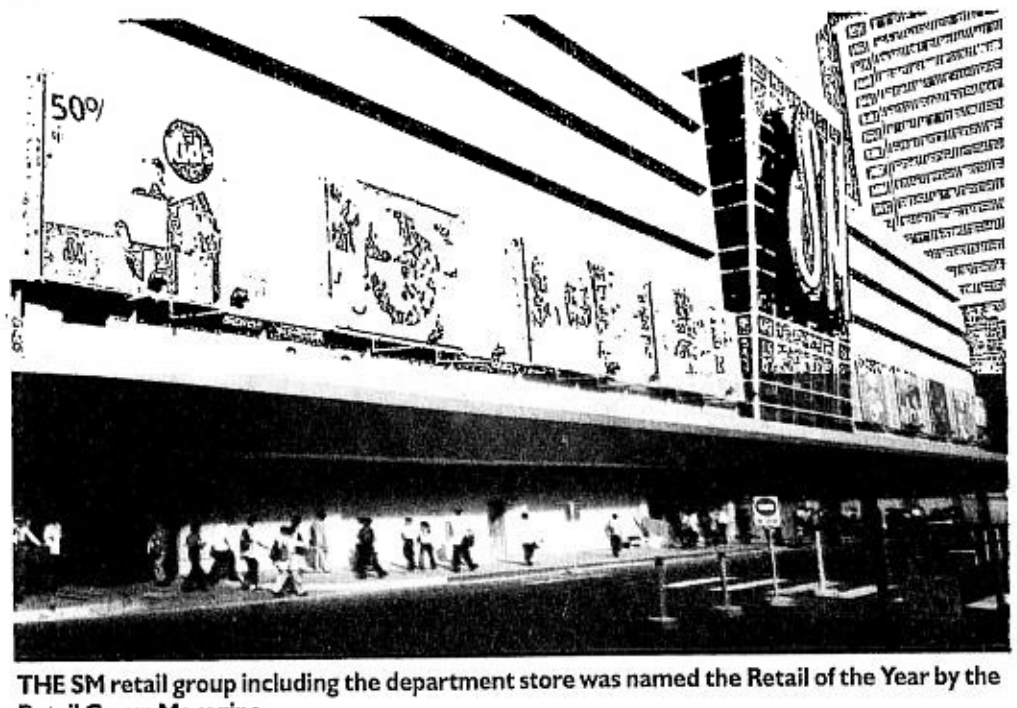


THE SM retail group including the department store was named the Retail of the Year by the Retail Group Magazine

Retail Asia names SM top Philippine retailer

THE SM Retail Group was named the Philippines' Top Retailer during the Retail Asia Pacific Top 500 Awards held recently in Singapore. It is the first set of regional awards for the retail industry.

The event is a partnership of the prestigious retail Asia Publishing Group (organizer), with Euromonitor International and KPMG as Principal Program Partners.

Top Retailer Awards—Gold, Silver, or Bronze—were given to the top three retail companies in 14 markets—Australia, China, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Retail Asia's executive chair Steven Goh says that the awards "celebrate the sterling qualities of these great retailers that have made them the titans of the industry—visionary entrepreneurship, compelling value proposition, great customer relationship management, cutting edge technology, excellent management, and operating process.".

SM's retail group received the Gold Award for the Philippines, while mercury Drug and Rustans won the Silver and Bronze awards, respectively.

"Our stores are focused on addressing the ever changing needs and lifestyles of our customers," says SM president Teresita Sy-Coson.

In a country where shopping is a passion, SM's retail stores have not only created shopping excitement, but also influenced the lifestyles of generation of Filipinos.

The SM Group was founded in 1958 by Henry Sy Sr., who is considered the visionary of Philippine retail because of his innovations in the industry. Today, SM's retail network consists of its department store chain, as well as affiliates with other store formats like supermarkets and appliance centers. SM also has partnerships with Watsons, a member of Hongkong's Hutchison Whampoa group.

SM's Department Store chain is at the heart of its retail network with 21 stores in Metro Manila and other key cities in the Philippines. With its exciting merchandise mix and broad market base, it has everything for everyone and has become everything to everyone, as best expressed in its "we've got it all" slogan. Considered the innovator and trendsetter in the Philippine retail scene, it has had a remarkable influence on local fashion and lifestyle trends, making it a part of the lives of many Filipinos.

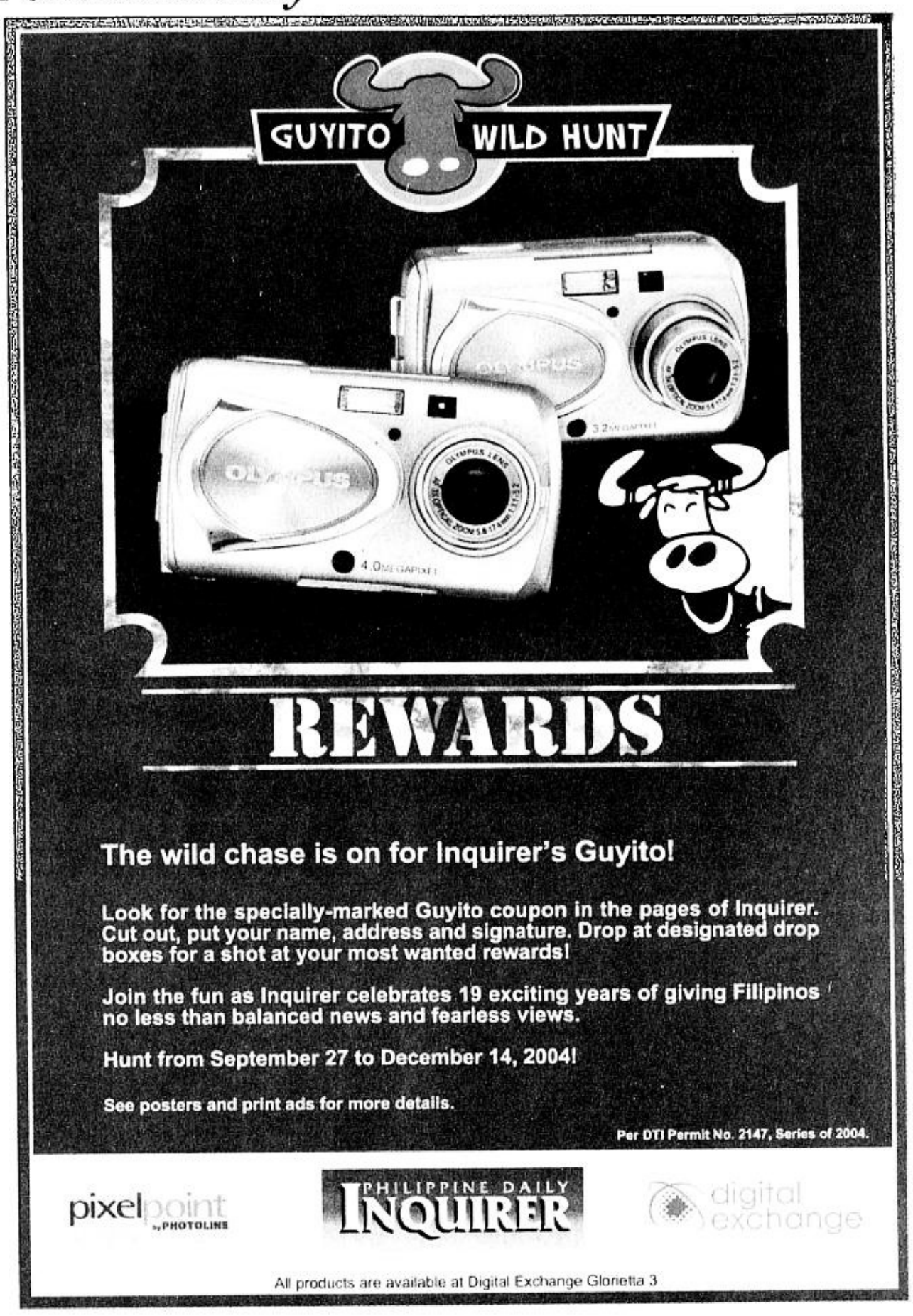
SM's retail group also has specialty store formats that serve niche markets by focusing on a wide assortment of a merchandise category. Currently totaling 100 stand alone stores, these concepts include a chain of supermarkets serving a wide range of customer preferences; hypermarkets that give customers great choices and great prices; and appliance centers that are strong in offering top brands and customer satisfaction.

Other store concepts within the group include home lifestyle stores (Our Home), fashion discount shops (Surplus Shop), sports stores (Sportscentral), baby specialists (Baby & Company) and toy superstores (Toy Kingdom).

SM's franchise with ACE Hardware and partnership with Watsons account for an additional 19 hardware and 104 personal care outlets.

New stores, innovations and renovations in existing outlets, and overall sustained consumer confidence in the Philippines have made growth ranging from 5-20% possible for SM's retail group in 2003.

In tandem with the aggressive expansion program of its shopping center group, SM continues to expand its retail chain both in the department store and niche store formats. It continually reinvents itself to keep up with the changing times by updating its merchandise, store design, and features, marketing concepts and customer service. SM also invests in technology both in its point of sale and backroom operations, including inventory.



Firm helps 'STARS' to read

ONCE "students at risk," now readers. Students pose with their volunteer mentors. They are joined by Caltex country manager Randy Johnson (back, third from right).

CALTEX Philippines, Inc. answered the call of corporate responsibility anew when it recently held the Caltex Mentor Program (CMP) recognition ceremonies at the Andres Bonifacio Integrated School (Abis), in Welfareville Compound, Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City. A total of 120 students at risk ("STARS") were mentored by 63 volunteers from Caltex's various business partners.

A first in Mandaluyong City, Caltex's flagship volunteer program was put into operation in partnership with the Mandaluyong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), the Mandaluyong Business Foundation and the Caring Mentors Association of the Philippines (Carims).

Non-readers

The CMP directly addresses the Department of Education's concern over the alarming rate of non-readers in public grade schools. Data show that a total of 12,061,675 pupils were enrolled in public elementary schools in School Year 2003-2004. Yet, there were only 337,597 teachers. The teacher-to-student ratio from SY 2001-2002 up to SY 2003-2004 was 1:36, showing an increase from the ratio of 1:35 in SY 2000-2001. The negative effects are evident in the results of the National Elementary Aptitude Test (NEAT). In SY 2000-2001, the Achievement Rates in the core subjects were: 49.75 percent in Math and Science, 53.93 percent in Hekasi, 57.49 percent in Filipino, and only 47.70 percent in English. (Source: Basic Education Statistics, http://www.decs.gov.ph, 2004.)

In fact, there are non-readers, or so-called "students at risk" (STARS) in all primary levels up to Grade 6.

Explains Caltex country manager Randall Johnson: "When we developed the Caltex Mentor Program two years ago, we sought not only to address the national issue of raising the level of literacy in the next generation. We also aimed to create a volunteer program that will enable our employees, our customers and our various business partners to give personal time and talents, or what we in Caltex proudly call 'sweat equity,' in the drive for better education in the Philippines."

Making a difference

Projects like the CMP are much needed especially now, says Dr. Florencia Domingo, DepEd superintendent for Mandaluyong schools.

"Philippine education is in crisis. Why? The government spends P5,000 per elementary school student and P7,700 per high school student. This is equivalent to $138—it's not enough. Thailand spends about $852 per student, while the United States spends $2,200 per student. [This implies that] good education is expensive. So how do we do this?" relates Domingo, a guest speaker at the CMP graduation in Abis.

The CMP garnered its highest number of participants per session at Abis in its two-year history. There were 120 Grade 2 and Grade 3 STARS who were identified through a pre-test conducted by Abis faculty. At the same time, a record number of mentor-volunteers participated—63 in all.

"At first, we had a hard time convincing parents and pupils to take part in the CMP. The implication is, if you're tutored, you're slow," states Virginia Carrillo, Abis teacher and CMP school-partner coordinator.

It didn't take the CMP mentor-volunteers, who consist of employees from Caltex Philippines and Manila Shared Services Center and employees from member-companies of the Mandaluyong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Mandaluyong Business Foundation, long to turn this concept around. After spending four three-hour Saturday sessions with the kids, they managed to improve the pupils' reading performance. After completing the program, the pupils took another test to gauge how much they have learned. The pupils boast of a passing rate of 86 percent in Grade 2 and 96 percent in Grade 3—surpassing CMP's average success rate of 80 percent.

"Pupils who scored zero out of 10 in the pre-test showed dramatic improvement, some garnering impressive scores of eight and nine out of 10 in the post-test," Carrillo says proudly.

Proud moment

The CMP graduation was a proud moment for pupils, their parents and mentors. In attendance were Mandaluyong Vice Mayor Jessie Cruz; Dr. Domingo; MCCI officers led by their outgoing president Lirio Sandoval and newly elected president Atty. Imelda Elizabeth Millar; Abis faculty and non-teaching staff led by their principal Dr. Juanita Valle; Caltex officers led by Mr. Johnson; Caltex business partners and CMP volunteers.

Special awards were presented to pupils who showed the biggest improvement, as well as their mentors. The most improved Grade 2 pupil is Anna Marie Entecosa, mentored by Carlos Reyes of Cherry Fooderama; Bercel Banzuela, mentored by Connie Fe Calot of AZ Direct Marketing, came a close second; and Jose Sabenorio, mentored by Sarah Bangit of Republic Chemicals, came third.

Among the Grade 3 pupils, Angeline Ann Antonio, who was mentored by Merle Tan of AZ Direct Marketing, was named most improved, followed by Zorah Garrido, mentored by Harry Atianzar of AZ Direct Marketing, and Miguel Peñalba, mentored by Bernadette Roxas and Wilma Estrarra, both of Edsa Shangrila Hotel.

It was also a graduation of sorts for parents and mentors. While their children were being taught, parents underwent a seminar on effective parenting also conducted by CMP volunteers. As for the mentor-volunteers, they witnessed the kind of difference a few weekends' sacrifice can make in a child's life.

"We feel honored that Caltex and MCCI have selected our school for the CMP. In less than a month, our pupils have shown vast improvement and even surpassed our target passing rate. We have so many wonderful people around us, and we hope to see more of projects like the CMP in Mandaluyong," concludes Dr. Valle.

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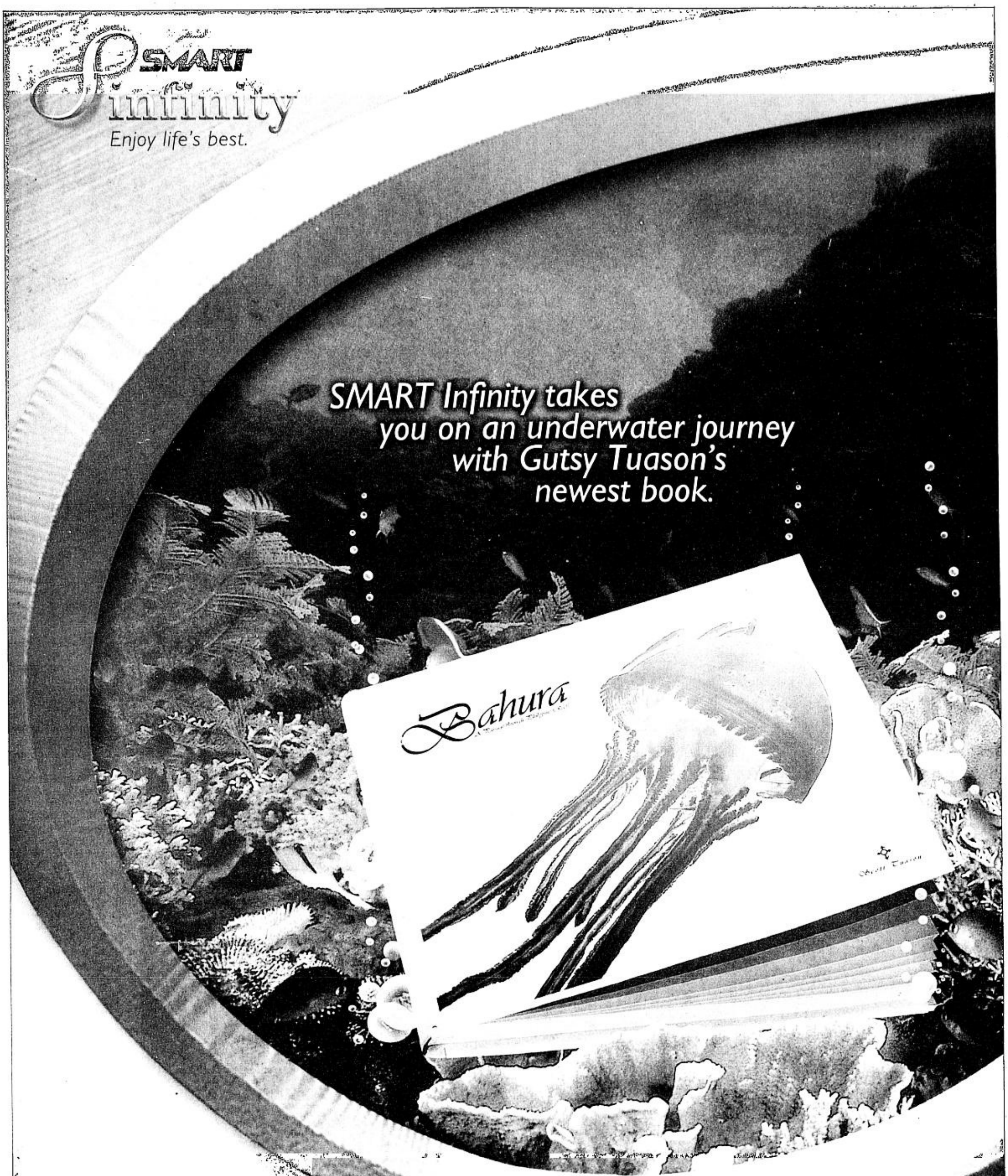

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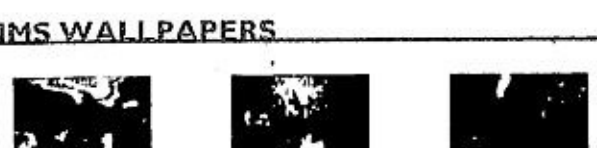

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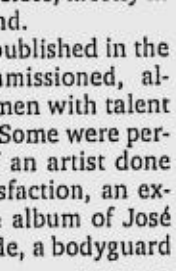
Vna India Ilocana

THE ALBUM "A Collection of Manila Costumes and Provincial Styles by Damian Domingo" records the typical 19th-century Ilocana dress. It is from the collection of Dr. Eleuterio Pascual.

Album of the glorious Hispanic centuries



PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto F. Villalon

ÁLBUM, Islas Filipinas 1663-1888" is a visual offering from José María Cariño and Sonia Pinto Ner, a feast of imagery for someone like me with a lifelong fascination with people and the places that they live in, past and present.

The collection of artwork in the book documents Philippine life from 1663-1888. The elegant design, generous full-color reproductions and meticulous printing come through in this luxurious publication whose quality is bound to please all lovers of the beautiful. It is a sourcebook of great value for researchers and aficionados.

Before the days of photography, artists sketched, watercolored, or painted in oil what they saw around them, recording scenes and events from everyday life: people, cityscapes, landscapes, and whatever else was of interest to them. Their work was grouped into collections, and then bound into albums.

Albums were often presented as mementos to departing colonial officials and other important foreign guests, popular souvenirs from the Philippines brought back by travelers to their home countries overseas.

Albums served different purposes. Some provided straightforward documentation, recording architecture, festivals, also military uniforms, and even playing cards.

They were commissioned as official documents to provide illustrations and maps that accompanied written reports. Others catalogued commodities available in the country at the time the Philippines opened its ports to world trade in 1834, precursors of today's digital export catalogues.

Since foreign businessmen and travelers brought home most of the existing albums of the time, only a few remained in the Philippines. The majority is now in the hands of museums and private collectors, mostly in Spain and England.

Most albums published in the book were commissioned, although the few men with talent drew their own. Some were personal records of an artist done for his own satisfaction, an example being the album of José Taviel de Andrade, a bodyguard

ALBUM/ C4

Very rare 'Filipina' map of 1563 on exhibit

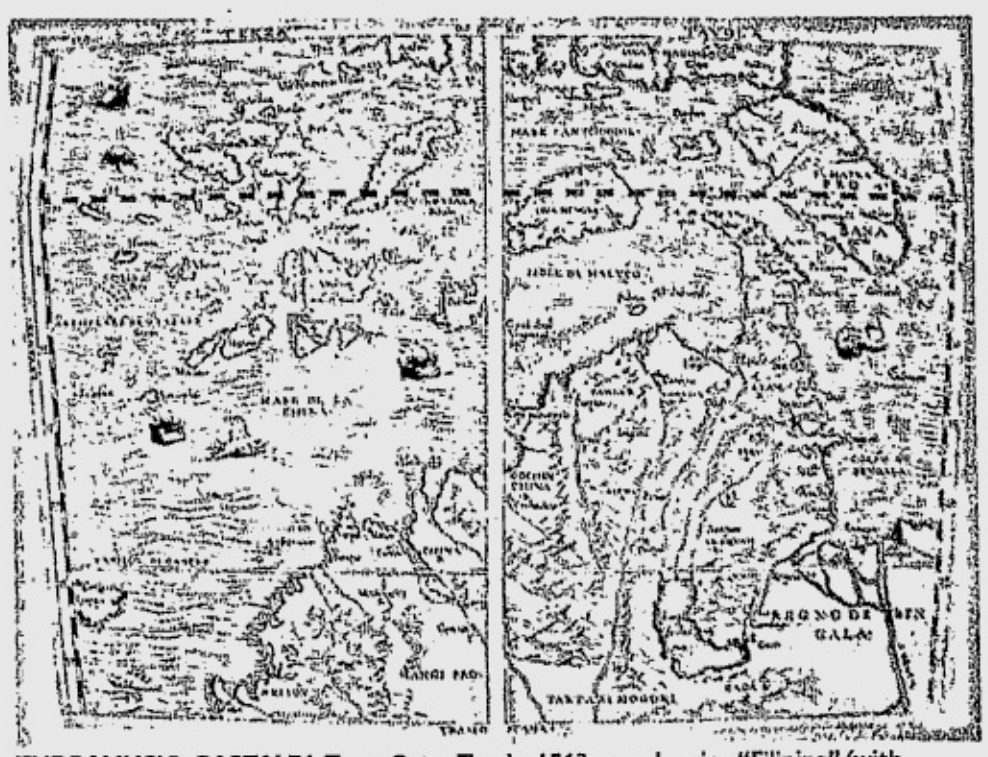
By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

THE EXTREMELY rare Ramusio-Gastaldi map, where the name "Filipina" appears for the very first time on a European map, is currently on display at an exhibit of antique maps titled "Putting the Philippines on the Map" at the Ateneo de Manila University's Rizal Library (Pardo de Tavera Room) in Quezon City, until Dec. 11.

This map, which does not show Luzon, bears the name "Filipina," applied to a narrow island to the east of Mindanao. As a matter of fact, the Spanish expedition leader Ruy Lopez de Villalobos bestowed the name "Felipina" on Leyte in honor of the young Crown Prince Philip (later Philip II) in 1543.

Although Italy never sent expeditions to Southeast Asia, it pioneered in mapmaking in the 16th century. Acknowledged as "that most excellent of cartographers" of the time, the Italian Giacomo Gastaldi, 1500-1565, produced three fine maps of Southeast Asia: in 1548, in 1554, and in 1561.

VERY RARE/ C4



THE RAMUSIO-GASTALDI, Terza Ostro Tavola, 1563 map showing "Filipina" (with pointer) beside "Vendanao" (Mindanao) NOEL BARRAMEDA

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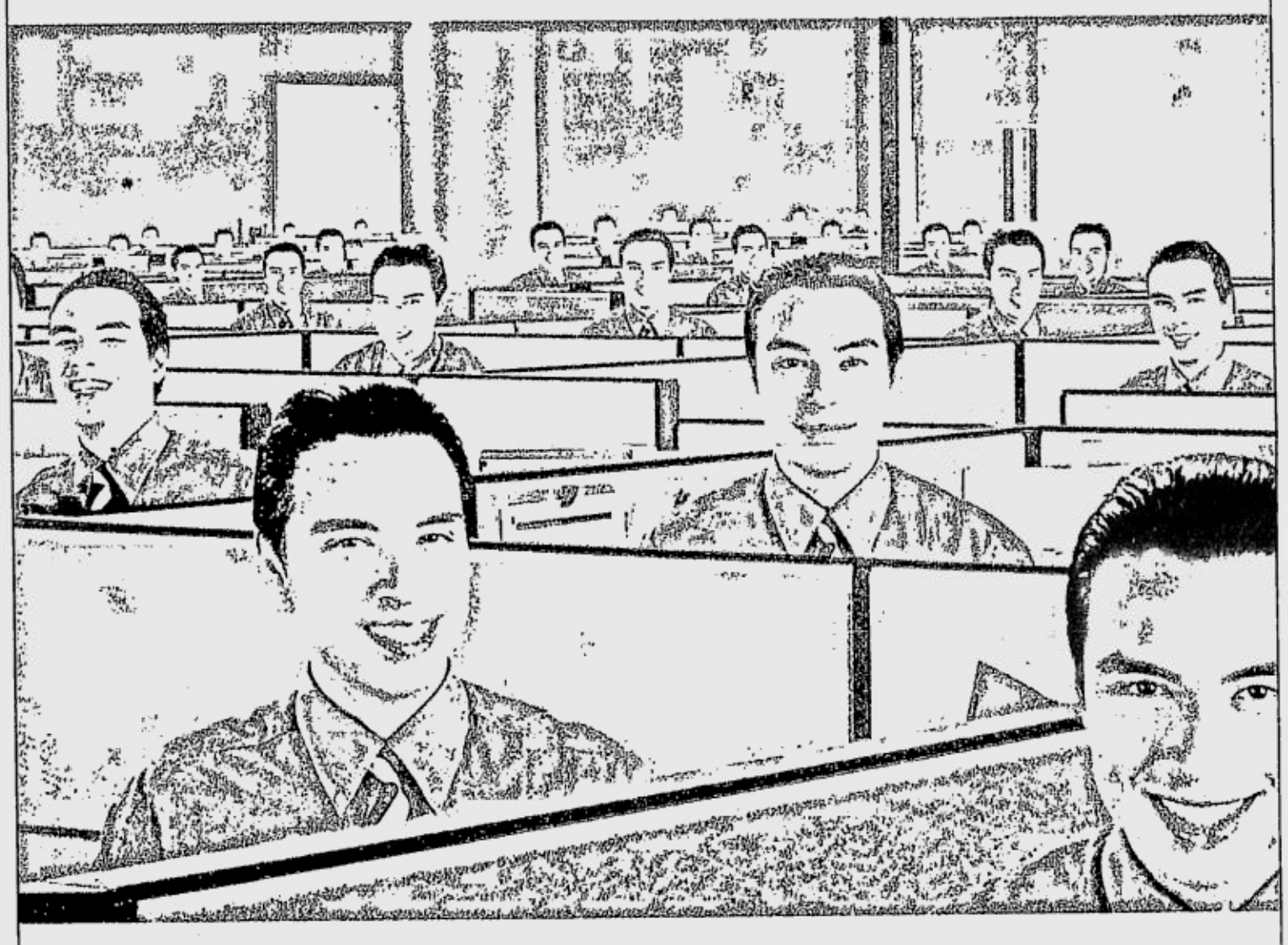

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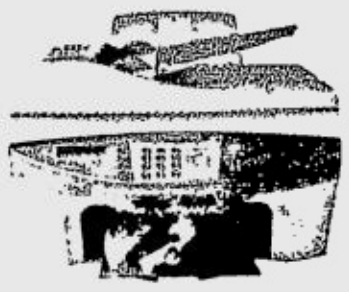

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Art décoratif

By Constantino C. Tejero

IN VALERIA Cavestany's striking art pieces, we are reminded of a time when Orientalism reached the European art world, influenced both applied and fine arts, engendered *l'art nouveau*, and inspired the likes of Van Gogh, Gauguin, Matisse, Klimt. Surrounded by these images, one feels luxuriating in warm light, preciousness and decadence.

Here are still lifes of varicolored flowers, some yellow and green fruits, blue porcelain, gray crescent moon, chinoiserie, and idealized portraits of women in exotic fabrics, with lightly stirring fans, amid petals and foliage, based on old photographs and antique prints—all delicately limned in acrylic on canvas and mixed media (watercolor, acrylic, découpage) on paper.

Here are adjustable tables of iron and light, flower chairs, fish chairs, translucent Japanese screens, divider lamps of cloth, light boxes of aluminum and glass (which the artist calls *cajas de luz*).

Numerous pieces of this rich imagery are spread until Dec. 12 in two galleries at the Artwalk, in Finale and Galleria Duemila, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

"TAPICES en Negro"

"AVE Maria Estoy en el Paraiso"

Cultural melting pot

Cavestany is a Filipino Hispanic, born to a Filipino mestiza mother and a Basque father from Barcelona.

She studied textile design in Escuela de Diseño Textil in Barcelona, then came to the Philippines to look for her roots. Choosing to make Manila her home, she started a career in fashion design.

Here she studied traditional Chinese-brush painting under Hau Chiok, and took up AB in Asian History at the University of the Philippines. She also studied at the Asean Institute of Art, majoring in Painting with a minor in Art Management.

"SHE and Narcissus"

She attended workshops in children's book illustration in Goethe Institut-Manila; lithograph on stone under José Soriano in Barcelona; with the Academy of Realist Art in Breitenbush, Seattle, USA; with Milford Zornes and Don Andrew in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

No wonder then that her art emerges as from a cultural melting pot. In fact, one thing she says she admires in her favorite painter Gustav Klimt is his integration of different cultures and blend of disparate elements in his art.

Cavestany's paintings are characterized by flat color, often just a wash, and little concern for perspective—typical of ancient Oriental painting. The ornate patterns clearly come from textile design, while the calligraphic gesture is from Antoni Tàpies.

Though she has settled in Manila for over 20 years now, her art still has roots in Cataluña. Her imagery has the levity of that of her fellow Catalan Joan Miró; her ornamentation as rococo as another Catalan's, Antoni Gaudí; and her colorism as Fauvist-inflected as still another Catalan's, Perico Pastor.

Even her functional art leans more to the decorative. Gaudí, particularly, manifests in the overwrought furniture. This flourish of overdecoration would seem rather incongruous for someone who professes to be a socialist in her youth.

Subversive portraits

But there is in her portraits an edginess that's beyond art décoratif. While an Oriental coyness defines the postures of the figures, there is in their gaze at the viewer that boldness and directness reminiscent of the sexually aggressive women of another favorite painter, Egon Schiele.

"A LADY with Printed Dress Green and Pink"

Look at the faces and witness the challenge and allure in those eyes: "She and Narcissus," "Japonesa Verde," "Buddha with Chinita Sitting on His Lap," "A Lady with Printed Dress Green and Pink," "Orchid Ladies," "I Love You," "Glued to the Phone," "Japonesas Dreaming in Red," "Japonesas with Flores," "A Lady in Blue and White Background," "So Many Things to Remember," "I Miss You," "Two Ladies, One Holding a Small Guitar."

Mostly based on photos of Chinese women of the 1920s with motifs from memorabilia from Hongkong, these portraits subvert the idealization and nostalgia with a streak of disturbing sexuality.

Even the floral still lifes look no less aggressive, with the pictorial frame crawling with spiky curvilinear forms. Here, every flower seems poised to attack, every leaf and tendril a weapon. And the still life is no longer still, but teeming with life, unceasing movement and chaotic colors.

The colorism is as eye-grabbing as the Fauvists', though it ranges from the primary to dark tonalities, from the clashing to monochrome.

"I have no favorite color—I use everything," laughs the artist. "Some other time I use mostly blue, but here it's predominantly red. I don't know why."

Most visually appealing are three portraits of solitary women richly drenched in gold, red, yellow and brown: "Fanning," "Always by Myself," "She and Narcissus."

Those are *cajas de luz* that, when lit, gives off an unearthly glow. They may not be self-portraits, but the viewer can't help but imagine the artist to be just as ethereal.

WITH "City" I-3

Raul Isidro in lecture-demo

PRINTMAKER and painter Raul G. Isidro is the featured artist for December of the College of Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

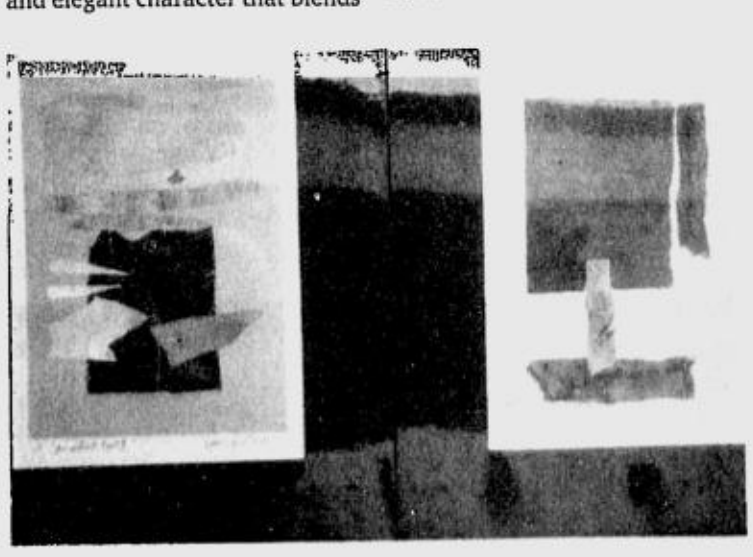
The artist's suite of monoprints, executed during the last three years, including recent one-of-a-kind prints, is on display at the Corredor of the college.

Isidro's monoprints make extensive use of locally available material and are individually hand-colored to enhance the print. The resulting color application approximates the qualities of watercolor and creates a refined and elegant character that blends with the material.

Isidro's subject explores places of the past as well as unchartered territories which he depicts as surreal or expressionistic landscapes.

He also makes use of anthropological discoveries such as ancient relics and artifacts that help shed light on man's continuing exploration of the great mysteries of life.

Isidro, president of the Philippine Association of Printmakers, will deliver a lecture, to be followed by a demonstration of monoprint and other printmaking techniques on Dec. 7, 2 p.m., at the Corredor. His lecture and demo are open to the public. Call 0916-3608379.



"MONOPRINTS"

Shopwise-Unilever Project Wins Top Award in the First-Ever ECR Asia Awards

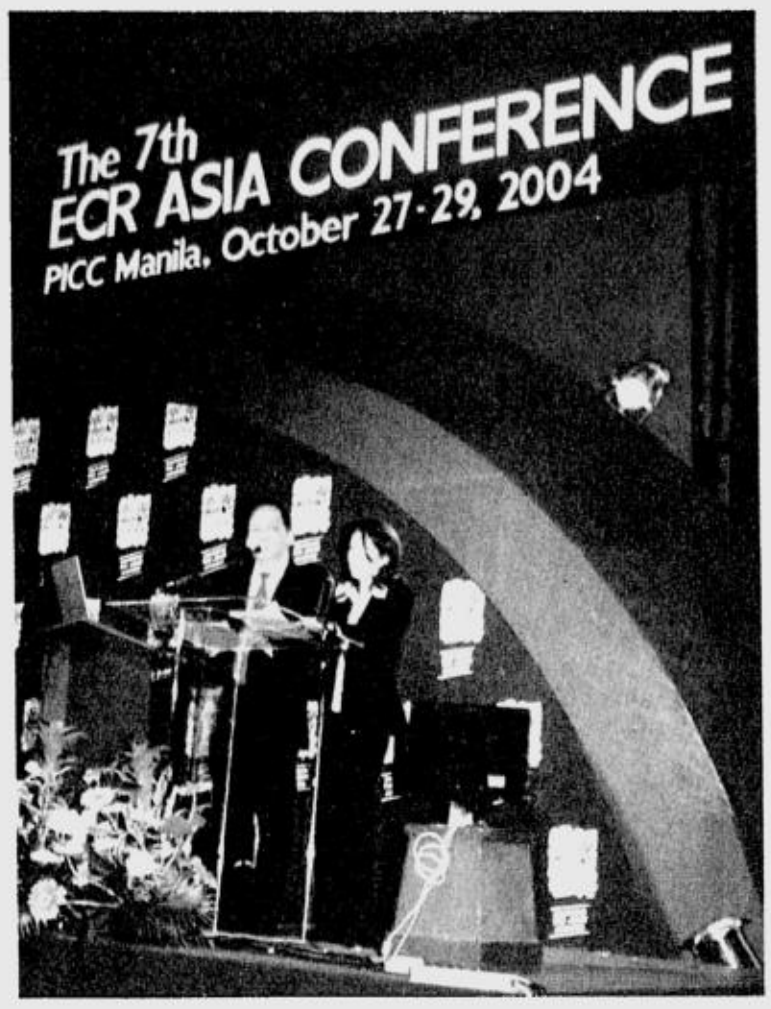
Shopwise Supercenter, the pioneer in hypermarket operations in the country and manufacturing conglomerate Unilever Philippines recently bagged the grand prize at the first Efficient Consumer Response (ECR) Asia awards for best practice cooperation between manufacturers and retailers. The tandem of Shopwise-Unilever bested eighteen other entries from all over the Asian region, bringing pride to our country in the recently concluded 7th Efficient Consumer Response Asia Conference held at the Philippine International Convention Center last October 27 and 28.

The aim of the awards is to encourage cooperation and collaboration between manufacturer and retailer for the ultimate benefit of the end-consumer. With the theme "Delighting the Asian Consumer," the conference stressed the importance of collaboration between retailers and manufacturers in meeting the increasing challenges posed by the highly competitive global market, such as thinning profit margins and increasingly demanding consumers.

The Shopwise-Unilever entry dubbed, "Shoppenings," was an integrated approach to building

and maintaining shopper loyalty, driving in-store traffic, and creating a differentiated shopping experience. "Shoppenings" comprised of three major phases. The first phase entailed the creation of a personal care "store-within-a-store" concept in Shopwise Alabang, which organized all Health & Beauty products under one section within the hypermarket. The section features more vibrant colors, an improved physical structure and layout designed to make shopping for personal care products easier and more exciting. The second phase entailed the use of the Shopwise customer database to generate insights on customers' health and beauty problems, and providing customized solutions to these problems, such as the desire for fairer skin, curing split ends or controlling excessive perspiration. The third phase was educating and exciting shoppers through in-store events, such as Beauty Talks, which was a series of in-store talk shows that featured celebrities and beauty experts to talk on lifestyle and beauty care solutions.

These activities led to impressive sales growths for both Shopwise and Unilever amid more intense competition in the trading area, and tougher economic times. According to Pong Ejercito, customer development director of Unilever Philippines, what made 'Shoppenings' such



a success was its focus on shoppers. "From the very beginning, we focused on putting the shoppers first. We designed and implemented our activities with this in mind: exceed shoppers' expectations." When asked what the secret was to winning the ECR Asia Awards, Catherine Tantoco of Shopwise had this to say: "If you focus on the customer, everybody wins."

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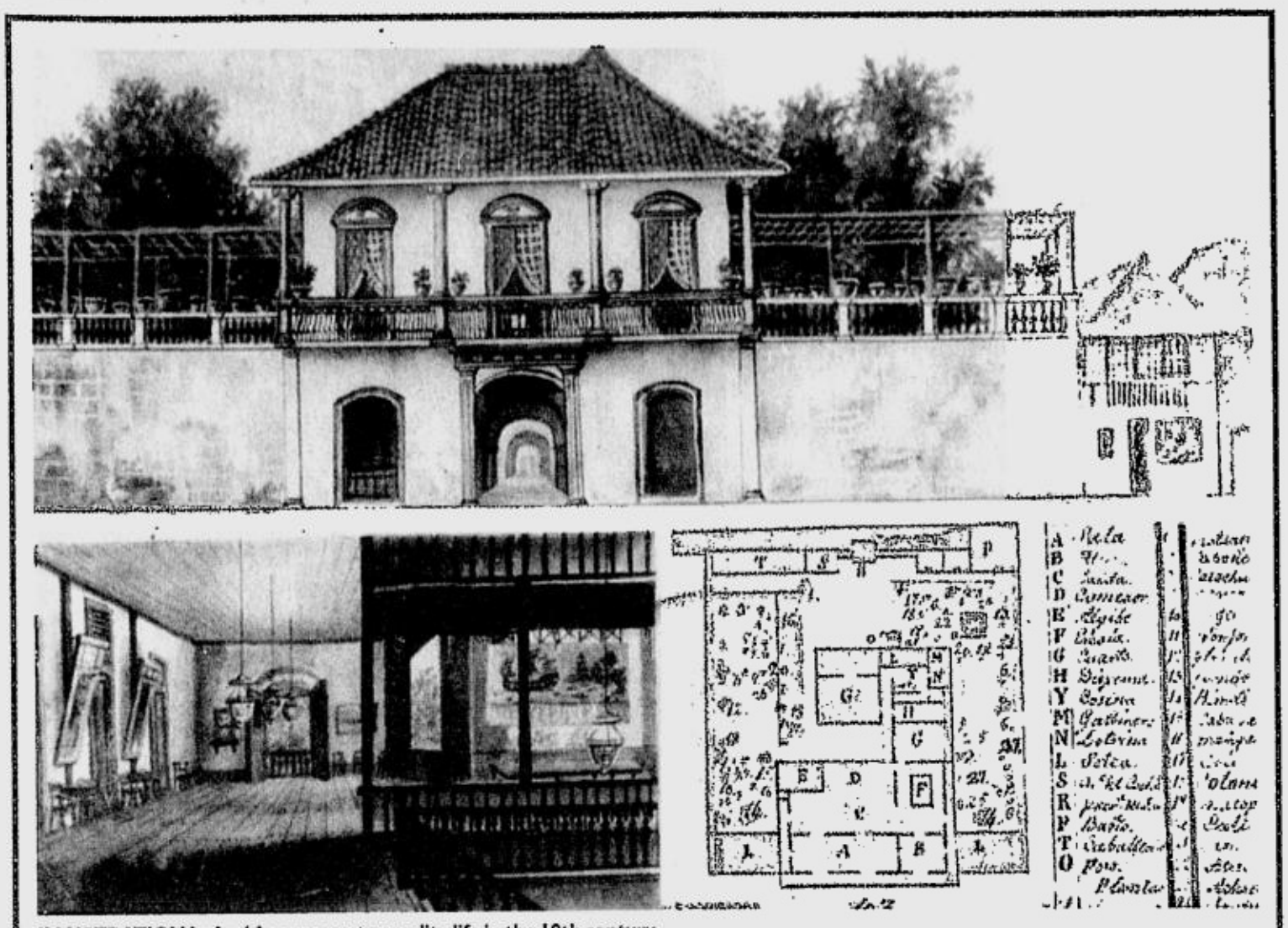


ILLUSTRATION by José Lozano captures elite life in the 19th century.

Crossing the lines

ONE bright morning, I had the wonderful privilege of speaking with Chaco Molina, executive director of the Fundacion Santiago.

Chaco had invited us to the National Museum to see an exhibit which Fundacion had developed: "Lines Across Time." Our meeting was actually set up by my friend, the dynamic Gina Tambunting Roxas.

Chaco gave us an animated description of what his organization did. Fundacion Santiago's predecessor was founded way back in 1903 and was originally named Hospital Español de Santiago. Its initial objective was to attend to indigent Spanish citizens stranded in the Philippines during the change of colonial regimes.

ALL4ART

Bea Zobel Jr.

One of its possessions was a parcel of land in a rice field near Pasig River. By some twist of fate, that parcel happened to be in the area of Makati Avenue. When Makati took off as an important commercial center, real-estate prices skyrocketed. The foundation found itself with considerable resources.

Programs

At this point, the foundation, under the leadership of its president Pedro Roxas, began to reinvent itself. Roxas saw civic works as important ways to return something to the Philippines for all its kindness and support. He felt it necessary then to expand the foundation's reach. Thus, Fundacion Santiago, as we now know it, was born.

Today, the foundation is involved in a wide range of projects—from assisting cooperatives to sponsoring workshops. It has worked in areas like Lopez in Quezon and in Western Batangas.

Of course, the Fundacion program that really excites me is the one on heritage. Chaco observed that many Filipinos seemed to have turned away from their past. The heritage projects form the Pamana program of the Fundacion.

The other major program involving social development is called Pag-asa. These two areas clearly indicate the Fundacion has a two-pronged approach to development as captured in its mission statement:

"To contribute to a strong grasp of the national identity by promoting and sustaining historical awareness among Filipinos, and using this sense of self as one of the foundations of national development; and

"To contribute to true, sustainable and equitable national development through the promotion of social entrepreneurship among economically marginalized Filipinos, particularly those in the countryside."

Amazing

What I find amazing is that a well-respected foundation will make the stand that enhancing the lives of our people requires paying attention to heritage issues.

Fundacion is sending the message very clearly: Development requires that socio-economic programs go hand-in-hand with cultural programs. People are best able to enhance their lives if they have a revitalized sense of self.

It was a comfort to know that Mr. Roxas had found a good man in Chaco to carry out his visions. Chaco regaled us with stories of his academic career and how he wound up in the foundation.

What struck me in his narrative was how he constantly went back to one thing as the basis of his life's decisions—love of country. He was obviously nurtured in this love by his parents. His father was the devoted diplomat and historian Antonio Molina, who taught law and history at UST (he was a mentor of the late American historian William Henry Scott).

Among the Pamana projects of the Fundacion were its activities in the historic city of Vigan. The Fundacion worked with the Spanish government and the local government on several major infrastructure programs.

Other projects include the translation of Filipino documents into cyberspace. Support was given to issuing the entire set of articles from La Solidaridad as a CD. Clearly Fundacion has its heart in the past but its feet firmly planted in the present.

GINA Roxas with executive director Chaco Molina

Exhibits have also been part of its portfolio. Recently sponsored was the show "Zamboanga: A World Between Worlds, Cradle of an Emerging Civilization." This was a collaboration with Dr. Felice Noelle Rodriguez, who also produced a book on the topic.

Exhibit

Which brings us to the current exhibit in the National Museum, "Lines Across Times." It aims to show how Philippine life was transformed by the changes in architecture brought about by Spanish inputs.

The exhibit has three parts: House, Infrastructure and Everyday Life. It was put together by heritage expert Toti Villalon, creative director Teresa Custodio, and model artist Ignacio Perez. There are photographs, maps, scale models and computer interactives.

The first section showcases the *bahay na bato*, the elite residence which was the centerpiece of the Spanish colonial domestic architectural legacy. There is also one frame dealing with the *bahay kubo* as the precursor of the *bahay na bato*.

In the first section is found a lovely illustration of a house floor plan, interior and façade by Jose Lozano. A friend pointed out that at the edge of Lozano's drawing one can see small houses. My friend went on to note that perhaps another exhibit could deal with these types of houses instead of just the two extremes of *bahay kubo* and *bahay na bato*.

The second section deals with the infrastructure which the Spanish authorities built to support their colonial administration. Included are ports, lighthouses, roads and bridges. The final section showcases the fabric of everyday town life. What is on display here are town layouts, churches and plazas.

Many of the images in the exhibit have hardly been seen before. Some are from recently discovered albums. There is even a wonderful set of games and activity kits which were developed as collateral materials for the show.

One goes away with a sense of how architecture truly helped shape life and culture in Spanish times.

I would also have loved to see modules on how existing heritage architecture and restoration activities can be used for tourism and income-generation. This way we will see how heritage and conservation truly contribute to the economy. In fact, Chaco dreams of setting up heritage training centers which will help revive the old traditional skills.

Refreshing

Thinking of Fundacion's programs, I can't help but be inspired. It is so refreshing to see programs that deal with both sides of the development equation—culture and economics.

Perhaps what we can look forward to is seeing more Fundacion projects that integrate the two dimensions.

Imagine credit cooperative workshops that begin with modules on the art and heritage of the town. Imagine heritage exhibits which also help teach kids about math and science through art.

It is hoped programs that really cross the lines, which stress the interaction between culture and economics, will make people aware that we do not have to sacrifice cultural and heritage resources in the name of economic advancement.

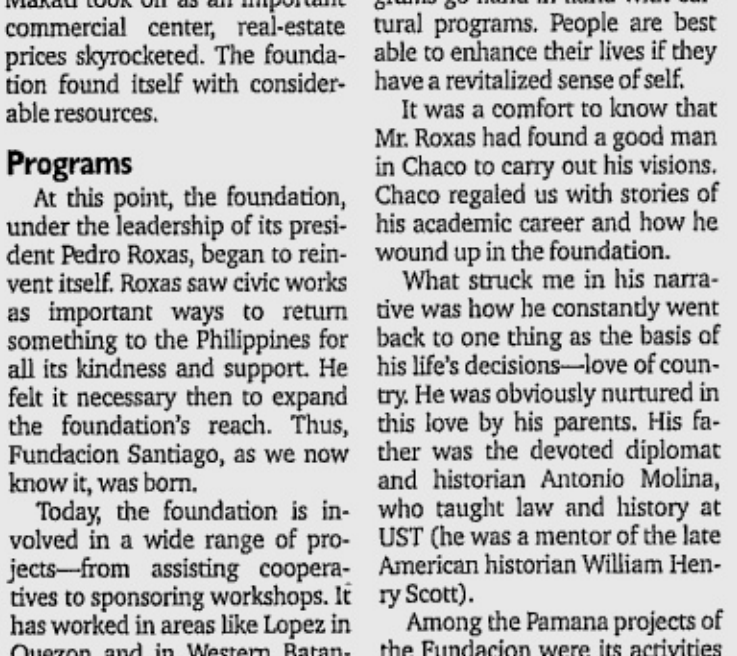
I notice that the Fundacion puts a lot of stress on working with rural populations. This is why I fully agree with its emphasis on heritage and identity issues.

After all, many rural areas are poor in certain modern facilities like factories and roads, but they are extremely wealthy in cultural resources like traditional architecture, crafts, songs and rituals. By transforming all these into real assets through tourism and product design, we create jobs for the countryside, so people do not need to crowd the cities.

One can dream, don't you agree?

Meanwhile, I can really say that an organization like Fundacion, with its wonderful leaders like Pedro Roxas and Chaco Molina, is truly the answer to our prayers.

E-mail beartist@filipinaslibrary.org.ph or address letter to Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Ave., Ayala Triangle, Makati City.



LINES across time at the National Museum

Album of the glorious Hispanic centuries

From page C1

assigned to José Rizal.

Cariño and Ner scoured local and European sources to select albums for their publication. The albums they chose include a wide range of topics, playing cards, calligraphy, military uniforms, architectural studies, costumes, maps.

Authenticity

The editors' foremost consideration in the selection of materials to publish was authenticity.

"Authenticity," write the editors, "is what separates national treasures from mere trifle; it is important for the credibility and scholarship of the research. Most importantly, it assures that a piece of art is an original creation of the artist to whom the work is attributed."

To assure authenticity, each author, assisted by curators, scientists and technicians, examined every artwork included in the book.

The Archivo General de Indias in Sevilla is one of the richest sources of Philippine materials. Since its creation in the 16th century, it has housed the entire collection of Spanish archives regarding its colonies.

From it comes the Indumentaria Filipina collection of watercolors showing Philippine apparel. Included in the collection is a letter dated Oct. 6, 1812, from Don Fray Joaquín Encaro de la Virgen de Sopetran, Bishop of Cebu, describing the language, customs, and beliefs of the faithful under his care.

More images from the archive record military uniforms in the Philippines, maps and architectural plans of colonial buildings.

The mid-18th century ushered the Age of Expeditions and Enlightenment, when most European powers sent scientific expeditions abroad to record and bring back biological and botanical specimens. Not to be outdone, the Spanish dispatched expeditions to their colonies, among its most ambitious being the 3 ½-year Malaspina Expedition which left Spain in 1789 for North and South America and the Far East, finally reaching the Philippines in 1792.

At each port the expedition called on, the hydrograph team recorded the waters and other coastal data. Artists drew vistas, prominent buildings, houses, ethnological portraits, and local costumes. Botanists, biologists and taxidermists gathered scientific data and collected samples. Surveyors calculated latitude and longitude.

Malaspina observed political and socio-economic conditions, and wrote out recommendations on how relations with Spain could be improved.

The expedition's nine-month stay in the country produced a wealth of information from marine drawings, the Mayon Volcano (called *volcán de* Albay), typical houses, landscapes, cityscapes, and regional costumes.

The distance from Madrid to Manila was too far to allow King Felipe VII to travel, so he commissioned a portrait, a symbolic representation, to be brought to Manila instead.

"Fiestas en Manila, Año 1825," an album of 25 watercolors commissioned by Governor General Ricafort, was presented to King Felipe VII, a record of extravagant festivities that welcor the arrival of his portrait.

Domingo album

Damián Domingo (1790-18 was the best-known Filipino artis the early 19th century, a dis guished professor at the Academi Dibujo y Pintura.

The Damián Domingo Album, f the collection of Dr. Eleuterio Pasc is proof of Domingo's artistic mast

In 1867, Don José de la Gánda Navarro commissioned José Hon to Lozano to produce "Álbum Tipos de Filipinas." At the time of commission, the artist was at the p of his career.

The editors state: "The work is c sidered by many as his [Lozano] m outstanding work for its sheer volu and the quality of the composit artistry and craftsmanship."

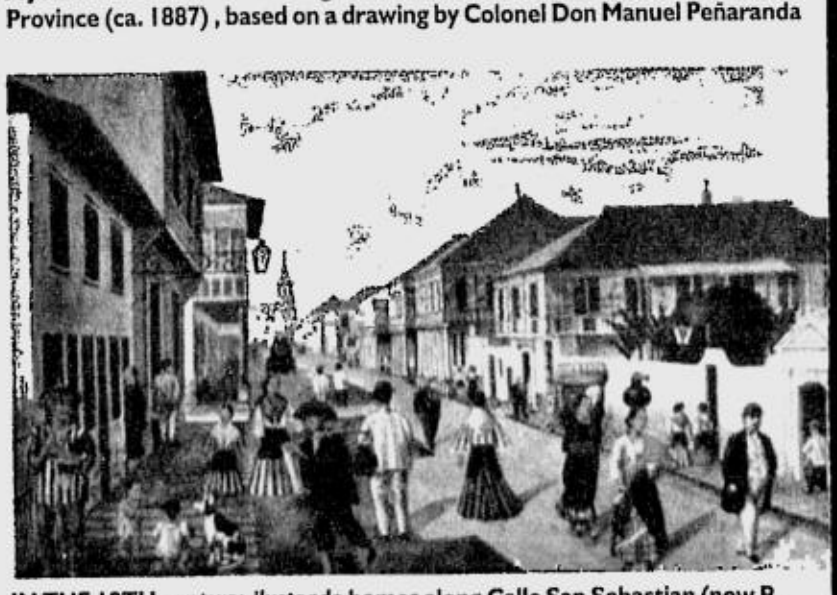
The album opens with a river v of Malacañang, a record that acces the mansion was from the water, ing reason to the fact that the river çade was more imposing. Anot work shows a dirt road cut through rice fields leading to the r entrance of Malacañang.

The impressive body of work Lozano, the subject of an earlier p lication by Cariño ("José Hono Lozano-Filipinas 1847"), records painstaking detail the intricacies piña embroidery, architectural em lishments and natural forms. "Vista del Jardín Botanico y est de Ysabel II" on the Mehan Gar site shows what Manila could re by restoring the Jardín Botanico.

"Álbum: the imagination unbou details of pure delight," accura

GOOD design is timeless, as this *barong tagalog* in watercolor by Fel Martinez in 1888 shows.

A JOSÉ Honorato Lozano image of a road ambush in Mount Carballo, Cagaya Province (ca. 1887), based on a drawing by Colonel Don Manuel Peñaranda



IN THE 19TH century, *ilustrado* homes along Calle San Sebastian (now R. Hidalgo St.) frame the view toward Our Lady of Carmen Church, which was destroyed and replaced with the all-steel San Sebastian Church.

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A HAND-DRAWN map on parchment by an anonymous mapmaker from 1683 records locations of Spanish fortifications and territories occupied by religious orders in Mindanao.

write the authors. I would add that the albums in this book tell the Filipino story, visually recording the early days of the Filipino nation, and definitely is a source of national pride for our people.

Heaven forbid that a book like this be simply abandoned to silent display on someone's coffee table. This is a book that deserves to be looked at, to be read, and to be appreciated for the visual record of the excellence of Filipino culture that it provides.

"Álbum, Islas Filipinas 1663-1888" is available at the Filipinas Heritage Library bookshop in Makati, Tradewinds Bookshop in Intramuros, the Metropolitan Museum Shop on Roxas Boulevard, and at AON in Loyola.

Email the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

Very rare . . .

From page C1

In question here is Gastaldi's 1554 woodblock map "Terza Ostro Tavola," which first appeared in the second edition of Volume I of Giovanni Battista Ramusio's "Delle Navigation e Viaggi." Thus, it is called the Ramusio-Gastaldi map. The map on display is the copperplate version in the third edition of Volume I of Ramusio's collection of voyages in 1563.

How did "Filipina" come to appear on this map, barely 11 years after the naming of the archipelago by Villalobos?

The 1554 Ramusio-Gastaldi map not only benefited from Antonio Pigafetta's account of Magellan's voyage for its mapping of the Philippines but also relied on newly published sources at the time.

Among these sources prominently figures the account of the voyage from Mexico to the Philippines by Juan Gaytan (Italianicized by Ramusio as Gaetano) and Villalobos. Ramusio himself first published this account in 1550.

Emerging presence

The antique maps in this exhibit trace the gradual putting of the Philippines on the map by Western explorers and colonizers. Of notable interest are the Sebastian Munster map of 1550 (which does not show the Philippines); the Petrus Kaerius map of 1598 (the first map that features the Philippines by itself); and the 1744 and 1760 editions of the Jesuit Pedro Murillo Velarde's map of 1734, considered to be the mother of all Philippine maps.

The appeal of antique maps comes from the unique synthesis of geography, history, exploration, travel, trade, science, culture and art. They fascinate many people today not only because they are documents of knowledge and icons of beauty but most of all because they are instruments of power. There is a compelling link between cartography and power.

The exhibit hopes to help Filipinos, especially the young, appropriate a fuller consciousness of their nation as the center from which to view others. Antique maps like the Mercator-Hondius map of 1606, which puts the Philippines at the center of Southeast Asia, can fire the imagination and strengthen one's resolve to help put the Philippines in this millennium not only in the heart of Asia but most of all, as a country with a heart.

The exhibit is open Monday to Friday, 8 a.m.-12 n, 1-5 p.m.; Saturdays at 8 a.m.-12 nn.

For a guided tour, call the Office of the Dean, School of Humanities, at 4261042 or e-mail to lgarcia@ateneo.edu

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Marcel Antonio's nudes of desire

"ELUSIVE Dream"

"SABINE"

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

MARCEL Antonio's latest body of works have a come-hither air about them. Not because most of them feature nubile nudes, but because they elicit a sense of déjà vu.

Some works may bring to mind a scene from a critically acclaimed Oscar nominee for best foreign film, or a movie from the heyday of LVN Studios.

Other pieces exude an aura easily evoking memories of the viewer's most private moments.

Antonio is known to cull from literature for his compositions, from Greek epics to Shakespearean tragedies and nursery rhymes. The resulting visual narratives result in the sensation of familiar cognizance and even personal remembrance.

Among the 2ft x 2ft of canvases done in oil, there are two that perhaps refer to the trilogy of "Griffin and Sabine" by Nick Bantock, about the correspondence between star-crossed and most unorthodox lovers who never really meet, thereby maintaining a yearning for each other.

"Sabine 1" is a woman brushing her long, dark tresses with a faraway look in her eyes. Her angled arm keeps her bare breasts from view.

The same olive skin, islander features, and melancholic gaze are in "Sabine 2," again her bare chest spared from exposure with a cleverly positioned hand. The other extremity is outstretched, holding a mirror at an angle which seems to allow the viewer to question whether the reflection is, indeed, Sabine's. A reflection is androgynous, signifying not only the longing for Griffin but also the character Sabine's doubt as to the existence of the latter, never having met him face to face.

Grace and melancholy

It is also the pose of the second Sabine that prods one's memory, for it is actually the same as the central figure in Sandro Botticeli's "Primavera." It must be noted then that Antonio has also imbibed the fusion of grace and melancholy that characterized the early Boti-

"WHITE to Move"

Bright and festive colors dominate the canvases in the artist's homecoming show

"FRAGILE Slumber"

cellis, most of which are also themed according to Greek mythology.

Marcel's brand of brooding subjects is his signature. Their skin tone is not Caucasian. They may be seen as mulatto, Micronesian, and, most admirably, perhaps Filipino.

These characters who are revealed in their languorous contemplation or habits of abandon are seemingly unaware they are being watched. The smudging the artist uses for his shading, figure outlines, and even the multihued backdrops make for a veil, one akin to diaphanous drapes shielding a boudoir from prying eyes.

Yet privy the viewers become, lured as they are by the unabashed comfort in one's own skin. They provoke perhaps curiosity, but beyond that is desire. For, indeed, the works depict desire, whether secret reminiscences, innermost wishes, or deepest longings, waiting to be had.

"Squared Figures" runs on Dec. 9-19 in Gallery Nine, Megamall. Call 6877302.

Email author at jejaro2002@yahoo.com.

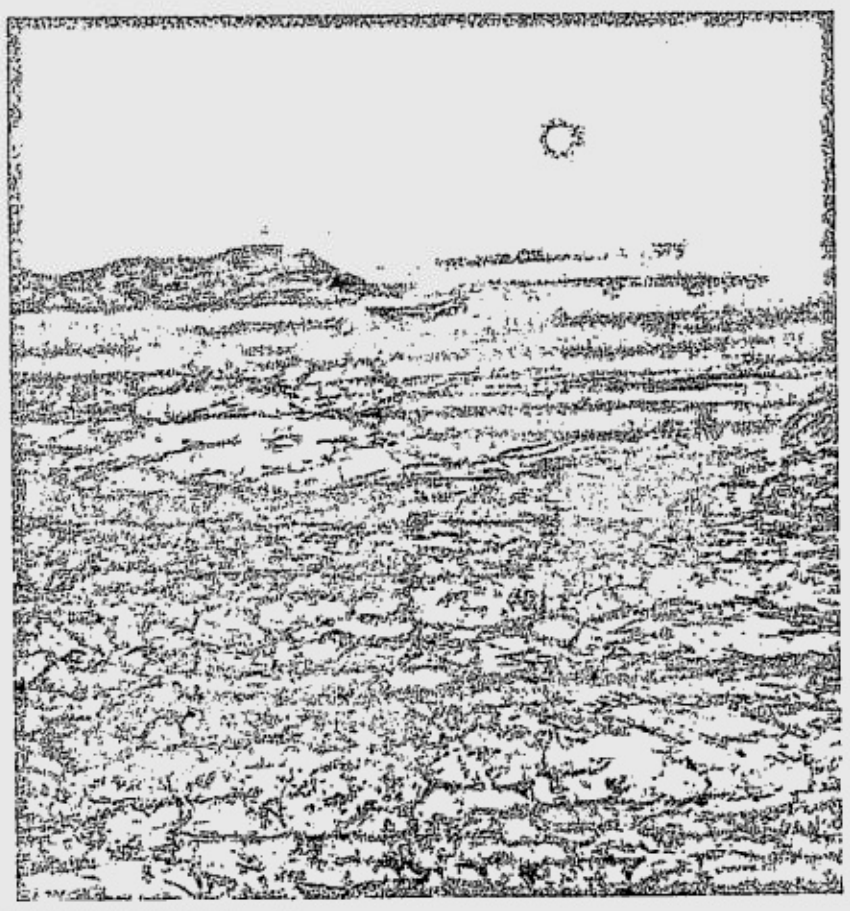
Sanso's blissful life in living color

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

AT FIRST glance, the artworks by the lobby of The Podium seem hardly unusual. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of pieces on the same subject have been painted by Juvenal Sanso, better known as Sanso, in various periods of his life.

Seascapes, rock formations, lichens, floral bouquets—they have been the staple of his art. And they remain his favored subject, the wellspring of his creative power.

But on closer view, one is overcome by the riches of color that mark Sanso's felicitous turn at this stage in his life. It seems as if a sudden surge of joy and bliss has enveloped the man. Bright and festive colors dominate his canvases in this homecoming show.



"THE GLISTENING Land"

A happy reality

The show is aptly titled, "Felicidad," harking back to a decade past when friends hatched up the idea of a show to mark his 75th birthday. The event has become a happy reality, coinciding with his decision to return to Manila after 50 years of living and working in various parts of Europe, especially in Paris where the light, he claims, is the longest and brightest and most awe-inspiring.

The title of the show is a tribute to the honoree, Felicidad Sy, wife to Henry Sy, whom he first met when he was eight. Henry Sr., seven years older than him, was then tending their small store on Echague.

Still sprightly and effervescent at 75, Sanso looks back at his life with justifiable pride. He has fulfilled his dreams, with art as constant lover, and dedicated muse.

Born of émigrés from Catalonia, Spain, he was 11 when the war broke out and the family fled to the hills of Montalban (now Rodriguez).

Award-winning

Sanso recalls spending the postwar years as a special student at the University of the Philippines. His teachers were among the best and brightest, notably Fernando Amorsolo, Dominador Castañeda and Guillermo Tolentino.

In his last year at the UP, he won two first-prize awards, in oil and watercolor, in the 1951 Art Association of the Philippines competitions. He was third place in the Shell National Art competition.

Sanso went to Europe and enrolled at Rome's Academia di Belle Arti and, later, the Academia della Madagia and the Circolo Artistico.

Feeling jaded by Rome's artistic climate, he moved to Venice to work on fresco paintings for the Palazzo Dario. Here, he met the legendary Peggy Guggenheim and became her friend and client.

He later relocated to Paris, where he claims the air and the company best suited his lifestyle and work habits.

Sanso has maintained a home in Paris since 1956, when he first held a one-man show in Galleria de la Maison des Beaux Arts.

He counts among his biggest breaks the Print of the Year award for "Leuers" from the Cleveland Museum of Art. Other recipients of the honor included Henri Matisse and Salvador Dali.

Indeed, it is in printmaking—particularly etching—that the other side of Sanso resides. He laments the current state of printmaking in the country, attributing its moribund state to the same people who are supposed to uplift it.

Impressive light

In the current show, curated by Galerie Joaquin, what impresses is the quality of light emanating from the canvases. Gone are the angst-filled and brooding look of his seascapes. Instead, colors have taken a glowing hue.

The places are likewise hardly identifiable, more obliquely situated in the well-defined settings of the Brittany coast and the fishponds in San Dionisio, Parañaque.

In the artist's current works, we see a place where time seemed to have stood still. Amid quiet surroundings, we are drawn to majestic rocks now mossy, suddenly turning rosy, and framed by the blazing orange horizon with the evanescent light of the moon.

Sanso's pervasive brushwork is immediately palpable, particularly in the richly textured rocks where lichens thrive in abundance. In the remote background, a sailboat breaks the view of the shimmering coastline.

The artist continues to mine his lifetime preoccupation with floral still life. His flowers are captured in vases or simply as bouquets.

In characteristic blue and green, these are anthropomorphic still lifes harking back to the 16th century, so richly detailed yet truly magisterial in their spiraling, towering movement. They represent the best of Sanso, who continues to evolve in this biologically mature stage of his life.

Sanso has found a new way of expressing another facet of his heart and mind. With a brilliant stroke of unexpected luck, not to mention his brush, he has immersed himself in a sea of bliss and happiness.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

CAMILLE de la Rosa presents her 11th solo exhibit, "Evolved Works," on Dec. 8, at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, beside DFA Building, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m. The exhibit runs until Jan. 17. Call 5517906/07 or fax 8338316.

Olazo at Finale, Aquilizan at Mag;Net, Camille de la Rosa at Nicotina

FINALE Art Gallery presents Romulo Olazo's recent abstract paintings until Dec. 14 at the 4/F La'O Centre, San Lorenzo Village, cor. of Pasay Road cor. Makati Ave., Makati. This exhibit shows Olazo's "Diaphanous" series.

ALFREDO Juan Aquilizan holds "Things Return to Their Place" starting today until Dec. 12 at Mag:Net Gallery Paseo in Makati. He continues with his attempt to relate history with community, community with place, and places with objects. Call 8177895.

PINTÔ Art Gallery launches "Alay 8," which features paintings, drawings and sculptures by more than 50 visual artists. The show can be viewed on Dec. 12-Jan. 12, 2005 at Sierra Madre, Grandheights, Antipolo City. Call 6971015/ 7229205.

VISUAL ARTS

ART SPACE runs Emil Davocol's photo exhibit entitled "Light Images" on Dec. 14-28 at Glorietta 4, Makati.

JESUS Casabar holds a photo exhibit, "In Passing," at Oarhouse, 1803 Mabini St., Malate, Manila, starting Dec. 9. Call 4508301.

THE DRAWING Room presents "Trip7" until

ARACELI Dans' "Forest" (left) and Luis Gabriel's "Two Birds on a Bench" are among the art works to be auctioned on Dec. 7 at the Orchid Garden Suites Hotel. The Silent Auction of Art, Antiques and Collectibles is the Winner Foundation's project to preserve the Arroceros Forest Park in Manila. Other artists on exhibit are Bencab, Romulo Olazo, Al Perez, and Ramon Orlina.

THE FRANCISCO V. Coching Foundation, Inc. mounts an exhibit of Coching's works until Dec. 16 at the main lobby of La Salle Greenhills.

"DIAPHANOUS" by Romulo Isidro

Dec. 20 at the Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati. The exhibit features works in ceramic, photography, wood, v and painting done by Erika Arroyo, Pardo de Leon, Mario Fernandez, Ava Lugtu, Popo San Pascual, Christina Quisumbing Ramilo and Trek Valdizno. Call 8977877/ 8976990.

BOSTON Gallery mounts three simultaneous exhibitions of paintings and sculptures until Dec. 31 at 72 Boston cor. Lantana Sts., Cubao, QC. Sandra Fabie-Gfeller presents oil paintings of dancers in "Kinetics" at the Lower Gallery. José John Santos traces the history of his being through his ancestry in "Past Represented" at the Upper Gallery. Roberto Acosta exhibits a series of terra-cotta sculptures in "Cararag" at the Gallery Alcove. Call 7229205.

ONE LUNA Gallery features "Gifts of Color" until Dec. 31 at One Luna Lifestyle Center, Eastwood Avenue, QC. Participating artists are Herzon de la Rosa, Mona Lisa Arlon, Cristina Cinco, Alice Cuazon, Rhea de la Rosa, Edna Garrucho, Lulu Katigbak, Charo Lim, Nene Marquez, Eden Olivar, Beth Periquet, Marilyn Ramos, Janet Santos, Becky Villegas and Jenny Villegas. Call 6350884/ 6350859/ 6350874.

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½ cup hot water
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In a cup, combine NESCAFÉ, MILO and sugar.
Pour hot water and stir until well-mixed.
Add NUTREN and stir. Serve while warm.
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½ cup mashed boiled pumpkin
1½ cup water
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In a blender, mix water and pumpkin until smooth.
Transfer mixture in a small saucepan and cook over medium-high heat until it boils.
Season with salt and stir. Lower the heat and let it simmer.
Add NUTREN (1 scoop at a time) and stir continuously; simmer for 2 to 3 minutes more.
Scoop into a bowl and serve warm.
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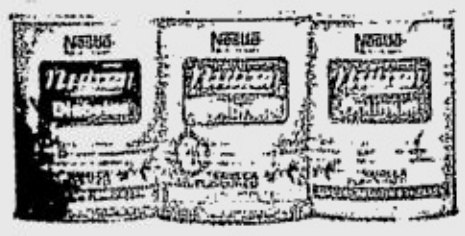

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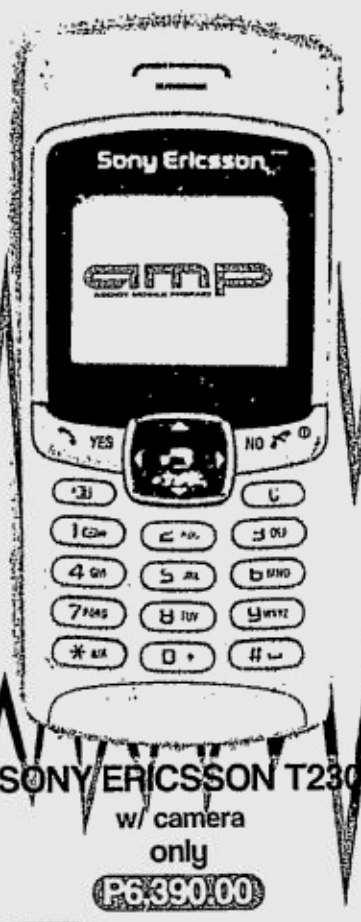

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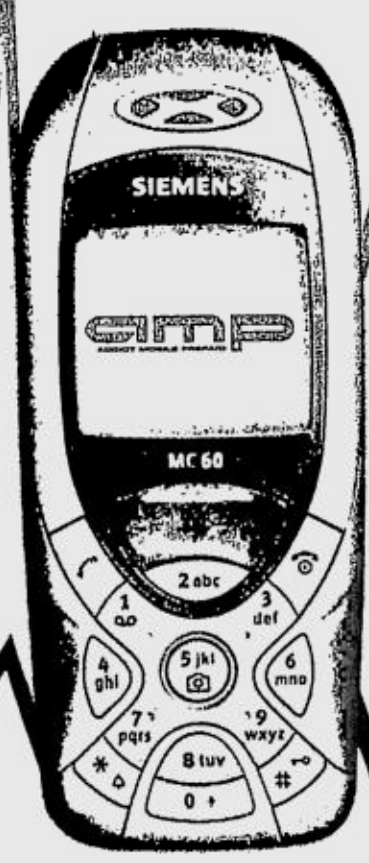

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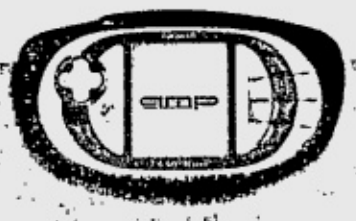

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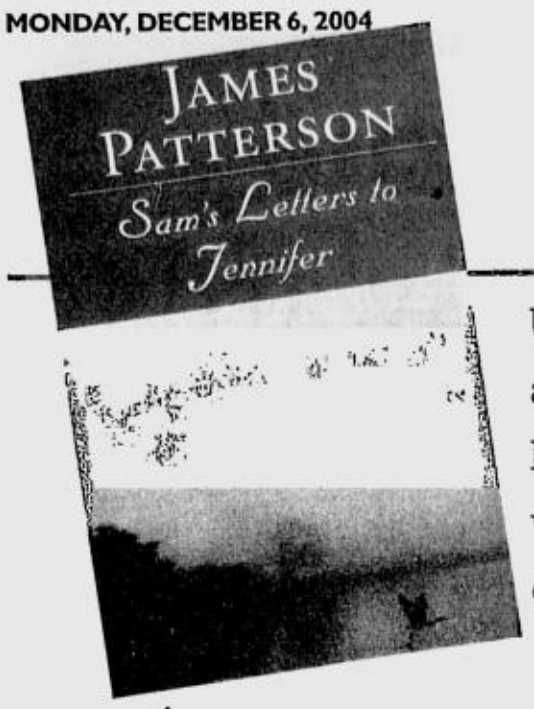

Utterly mushy and predictable, James Patterson's latest lovefest will satisfy only the most die-hard of romantics

A romance to be returned to sender

By Ruel S. De Vera

"Sam's Letters to Jennifer"
By James Patterson
Warner Books, New York
2004, 264 pages

JAMES Patterson just continues to amaze us with his versatility and production. His 26th novel marks another landmark for the popular and best-selling author.

By now, his lengthy bibliography includes everything from gripping Hollywood-massaged thrillers ("Kiss The Girls") to drippy romances ("Suzanne's Diary for Nicholas"). Along the way, he has collaborated with other writers and has tackled everything from medieval mystery to audaciously weird sci-fi (the winged children from "When The Wind Blows"). Yet it is clear that potboilers remain his strength. Ruthlessly reader-friendly, his prose has always been assembly-line accessible though his capacity for innovation swings wildly, his books turning out to be either buzz-inducing or banal.

Thus, "Sam's Letters for Jennifer" (notice the title's similarity to "Diary") could easily have been trick-and-treat, perhaps a romance with a twist. Yet it turns out to be achingly earnest, regular TV-movie-of-the-week stuff. Short and concise, straightforward and sappy, "Letters" tackles two love stories in different generations meeting in tragedy and serendipity.

The titular Jennifer is a Chicago Tribune columnist doubling as the novel's first-person narrator. Having lost her husband to an accident, Jennifer is muddling along somehow when her beloved grandmother Sam (short for Samantha) falls into a coma. While at her grandmother's house, Jennifer discovers a sheaf of letters in her name and, as she reads, finds out that Sam was secretly in love with someone other than her late grandfather, Charles.

This discovery goes hand in hand with Jennifer's fortuitous meeting with hunky radiologist Brendan Keller, ostensibly on vacation. Even as she struggles with Sam's vegetable state in the hospital, Jennifer falls inexorably for Brendan even as she continues to read through Sam's letters, attempting to find out who the mysterious Doc is.

Secrets

As always, there are secrets. While Jennifer is still haunted by the memory of her husband's death, Brendan harbors secrets of his own. But, despite their own efforts, the two sink deeper into each other's presence, with Jennifer's reflection a fitting description of the novel itself: "Being with Brendan definitely felt like an old-fashioned summer romance—fast, irresistible, and probably a little dumb, but even if it was, we both seemed to feel the same way about it. I had the sense that Brendan needed it, too, and also that he was holding back, careful that this didn't get too serious."

With Patterson's overheated descriptions of Jennifer swooning, "Letters" begins, however, to take a turn for the mawkish, becoming more and more a pulp romance. Admittedly, the time-lost story of Sam's hidden dalliances would have made for a flavorful counterpoint to the by-the-numbers (and roll-the-eyes) coupling between Jennifer and Brendan.

But that mystery turns out to be quite underwhelming, especially if compared to Patterson's past novels. In truth, Sam's struggle with her health and Jennifer's warm recollections of her grandmother comes across as far more affecting that the undercooked love story unfolding in Sam's eloquent if breathless missives.

For good measure, Patterson throws in some overheated revelations to try and shake up "Letters," but these also come across as being contrived and forced. It is almost surprising how predictable "Letters" turns out to be, taking into consideration that Patterson had displayed a penchant for surprises in the past.

By summer's end, everything that the reader thinks will happen certainly will have come to pass. Between the cloying home-scented warmth of the central characters to the bulldozing force of their romance, the elements found in "Letters" has an overpoweringly crowd-pleasing quality to them that renders the book utterly predictable. As a result, "Sam's Letters to Jennifer" will be satisfying only to the most die-hard and needy of romance fans. Otherwise, this James Patterson outing can be skipped and returned to sender as the dependably prolific author will surely have something new for readers very soon anyway.

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LINDA Panlilio

Filipino food book wins 2nd Global Filipino Literary Awards

"COMFORT Food," an anthology of essays from 31 writers on nostalgia and food, edited by Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio and published by Anvil Publishing, received the Award for Non-Fiction given by Our Own Voice, a literary e-zine for Filipinos in the Diaspora (www.oovrag/~oov), which released the list of recipients for its Second Annual Global Filipino Literary Awards. An essay from the anthology will be featured in the December 2004 issue of Our Own Voice. (Comfort Food was likewise cited by the Manila Critics Circle's National Book Awards for 2003 as Best Food Book.)

"We applaud publishers worldwide who encourage the literary output of Filipino authors," stated Ms Remé-Antonia Grefalda, founding editor of Our Own Voice. "The next generation's need to see their experiences reflected on the page will propel them to actively search for works by Filipino authors." The 2004 GFLA honors authors and publishers of books by Filipino authors from around the world, focusing on books published in 2003.

This year the judges awarded two poetry collections, citing the publication of "Ghost Wars" by Vince Gotera of Cedar Falls, Iowa, published by Final Thursday Press, and "Miracle Fruit" from Tupelo Press, a collection of poems by Aimee Nezhukumatathil of Fredonia, New York.

There was no award for fiction this year.

The awardees will receive a plaque citation, a copy of Our Own Voice Literary/Arts Journal, and their choice from a selection of recent books published.

Last year's Global Filipino Literary Awardees were: Noel Alumit's Letters to Montgomery Clift, Fiction, published by McAdams/Cage. For Poetry, Love Gathers All, a groundbreaking anthology of poems by Philippine and Singaporean poets (that includes one of Panlilio's poems), published by Anvil Philippines and Ethos Books, respectively; and Mulat, an anthology of television scripts in Filipino by Frank G. Rivera, published by the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House, Philippines.

Graphic-Nick Joaquin Awards on Dec. 8

THE BEST of Philippine Graphic weekly magazine's fiction writers will receive the Philippine Graphic-Nick Joaquin Literary Awards 2004 and P100,000 in cash prizes in formal ceremonies on Dec. 8

The awarding will be held following the blessing and inauguration at 4 p.m. of the new offices of Philippine Graphic Publications, Inc., at 3/F Dominga Building, 2113 Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo). Besides Graphic, the company also publishes Mirror Healthy Lifestyle and Cook Culinary Lifestyle monthly magazines.

The literary competition has been named after the late National Artist for Literature and Journalism, who was Graphic's corporate editor-in-chief and founding publisher.

The publishing group has invited President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos to the awarding.

Msgr. Josefino S. Ramirez, parish priest of Quiapo Church, will celebrate a thanksgiving mass at 4 p.m. and officiate the blessing of the new offices. The awards ceremony takes place after.

The winners were chosen by a panel of judges headed by Adrian Cristobal, Graphic literary editor and executive publisher. Members were Graphic columnist Krip Yuson and managing editor Marianne Carandang.

The awardees will receive trophies and cash prizes from Ambassador Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, Graphic founder; T. Anthony C. Cabangon, publisher; and Benjamin V. Ramos, president.

Joaquin, Nolledo, Condino to receive UST literature prize

THE VARSITARIAN, the official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, will bestow the Parangal Hagbong literary prize to expatriate Filipino poet Ben Villar Condino, the late Wilfrido Nolledo and the late National Artist Nick Joaquin on Dec. 11, 6 p.m., at the UST Main Building lobby.

The three writers will receive trophies sculpted by artists Frederick Caedo and Romeo Forbes.

The Parangal Hagbong is the highlight of the 20th Ustetika Awards, the country's longest running campus literary awards. Judges this year include National Artist Virgilio Almario, Cirilo Bautista, Cristina Pantoja Hidalgo, Jun Cruz Reyes, and Oscar Campomanes.

The Parangal Hagbong is given to Thomasian men and women of letters for significant contributions to literature. Previous recipients are Rolando Tinio, Rogelio Sicat, Genoveva Edroza Matute, National Artist for the Visual Arts J. Elizalde Navarro (for art criticism), Erma Cuizon, Reynaldo Duque, Ponciano Pineda, Lilia Pablo Amansec, Bienvenido Lumbera, and Sr. Delia Coronel, ICM.

Nolledo was a multi-awarded fictionist, essayist, playwright, screenplay writer, and editor known for his powerful prose style. He edited the literary section of the Varsitarian in 1957 when he was a journalism student of the old Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, now Arts and Letters. His novel, "But for the Lovers," was published in the US and has been acclaimed by American critics. In 1963, he received the TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines) Award for Literature. Last March 6, he died in California of pancreatic cancer. He was 71.

Nolledo's champion was National Artist Nick Joaquin, who was also noted for his prose style and his poetry, fiction and other writings that conjure the Philippines' rich Hispanic past. Both Joaquin and Nolledo were doing highly exquisite magical stories even before Latin American "magic realism" became the vogue. Joaquin was also a path-breaking journalist and historian.

POET Ben Villar Condino

NICK Joaquin, National Artist for Literature and Journalism

WILFRIDO Nolledo

Joaquin did not finish formal schooling, but UST awarded him an Associate in Arts certificate for his essay, "La Naval de Manila," which won in a contest sponsored by the Dominicans. Last April, he died of cardiac arrest. He was 87.

Condino was the first Bikol poet to receive the "Makata ng Taon" award from the Surian ng Wikang Pambansa twice—in 1951 and 1967. He received the 2003 Gintong Pamana from the Gintong Pamana Awards Foundation for excellence in literature.

A UST Journalism graduate, Condino was a reporter of the Bagong Buhay (Taliba) and editor-in-chief of Mabuhay of the DMHM Publications in 1972. He escaped to Canada with his family when he was blacklisted by the Marcoses in 1972. They lived there for 27 years.

His collection of poems, "Puera Biro," was published by Paracale Press in 2003. His poetry has been highly praised by Efren Abueg and Bievenido Lumbera.

Writers' Night at UP

LIKHAAN: The UP Institute of Creative Writing (ICW) will host the Writers' Festival, "Parang Kailan Lang..." on Dec. 6-10, this year. It coincides with the College of Arts and Letters Week.

The Writers' Festival is also in commemoration of the formal establishment of the UP Creative Writing Center (as the ICW was originally called), 25 years ago, on June 1, 1979.

The Writers' Festival will formally open with an exhibit at Galeria 1 and 2, Bulwagang Rizal.

The exhibit will feature the different programs, projects and activities of the ICW.

There will also be an anniversary bookfair in front of the Pulungang Recto, also at the Bulwagang Rizal, with major publishers participating. The UP Press coordinates the bookfair.

The centerpiece will be on Dec. 7, Writers' Day.

It will start with a puppet show by the Teatrong Mulat ng Pilipinas (TMP) at the Teatro Hermogenes Ilagan, Bulwagang Rizal, from 9 a.m. to 12 nn. Prof. Emeritus Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio, former CWC director and now ICW adviser, is the TMP's resident playwright-director.

It will be followed by the presentation ceremonies of the Fourth Madrigal-González Best First Book Award, won by Ma. Luna Sicat-Cleto, with the novel "Makinilyang Altar" (published by the UP Press); and a roundtable discussion on the future of Philippine literature, with emphasis on emerging forms and genres.

From 6 p.m. onwards, the Writers' Night, the traditional reunion and Christmas Party of writers, will be held at the Balay Chanselor, Garcia Avenue, UP Campus, Diliman. Forty-three batches of workshop fellows—from 1965 to 2004—have been invited to join the festivities. Music will be provided by mostly alternative artists and bands—mostly singers who are also writers. There will be a minimum entrance fee to raise funds for the ICW.

Starting this year, the Writers' Night will be celebrated on Dec. 7.

Love's centenary

By Ralph Semino Galán
Contributor

THE MANY forms and formulations of Pinoy love and loving are collated as lyrical utterances in "One Hundred Love Poems" (Quezon City: UP Press, 2004, 128 pages), edited by Gémino H. Abad and Alfred A. Yuson. Subtitled "Philippine Love Poetry Since 1905," the collection contains 100 poems by 100 poets arranged in chronological order according to the poet's birth year. The composition or publication date of each poem is also provided in what could only have involved a laborious archival work on the part of the editors.

Some of the "classic" Filipino love poems in English are included in the anthology, such as Angela C. Manalang-Gloria's "Soledad," Jose Garcia Villa's "I Can No More Hear Love's," Trinidad L. Tarrosa-Subido's "You Shall Be Free," Francisco Arcellana's "The Other Woman," and Carlos A. Angeles' "Landscape II," among others.

But the limitation of representing one poet with one poem becomes apparent when an informed reader searches for favorite pieces memorized by heart. Absent in the collection are Manalang-Gloria's "To the Man I Married," Edith L. Tiempo's "Bonsai" and Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta's "A Kind of Burning," to name a few. (Like Manalang-Gloria, Tiempo and Dimalanta are represented by other poems: "Mystical Union" and "The Time Factor," respectively.)

In his introduction to the book, Abad, premier poet, declares that the poems encompass the three manifestations of love: Eros, Amor and Agape.

It is not my duty as a critic to perform the tedious task of sorting out the poems according to their particular passionate or compassionate affiliation. The best I can do is point out to prospective buyers of the book the most fulfilling poems, in terms of both form and content, which in the exemplary pieces are perfectly interlaced that it is difficult to trace where one ends and the other begins, like a finely woven tapestry of sights and insights, words and worlds.

Among the poems written by the more senior writers, the following deserve a second reading: Bienvenido Santos' "In Fair Exchange," NVM Gonzalez's "A Need for Love," Nick Joaquin's "The Innocence of Solomon," Tita Lacambra V. Ayala's "Echo," Myrna Peña-Reyes' "Ruth Was Not Penelope," Cirilo F. Bautista's "Song," Cesar Ruiz Aquino "Kalisud à la Rizal," Merlie M. Alunan "We Kept a Jarful of Keys," Marra PL. Lanot's "You Tell Me," Alfred A Yuson's "The Fate of Rain," Elsa Martinez Coscolluela's "Adam's Rib," Jaime An Lim's "Breathing without Accompaniment" and Anthony L. Tan's "Letter to Ling."

Remarkable

The more remarkable pieces written by the younger writers (poets born in the 1950s onwards) include Ricardo M. de Ungria's "Shrimp Moves," Marjorie M. Evasco's "Elemental," Jose Y. Dalisay's "To June, On Her First Winter," Ma. Fatima V. Lim-Wilson's "Crossing Dreams," Luisa Igloria's "Rings," Isabelita Orlina Reyes' "The in between," Danton Remoto's "Rain," Antonio L. Jocson's "Utsu Mountain at Okabe," DM Reyes' "Affection," R. Zamora Linmark's "The Muse This Time," J. Neil C. Garcia's "Malinche," Ruel S. De Vera's "Moonlight Sonata," Lourd Ernest H. de Veyra's "hi-density," Conchitina R. Cruz's "Bedtime," Carlomar Arcangel Daoana's "Negros Museum, June 13," and Angelo Suarez's "Flood."

But my personal favorite of the entire compendium is Eric T. Gamalinda's "Las Ruinas del Corazon," a narrative poem chronicling Queen Juana the Mad's "adamant desire" for her dead husband, Philip the Handsome: "She wanted to possess him entirely, and since not even death/ may oppose the queen, she found a way to merge death and life// by eating a piece of him, slowly, lovingly, until he was entirely/ in her being. She cut a finger and chewed the fragrant skin,// then sliced a thick portion of his once ruddy checks. Then she ate/ an ear, the side of a thigh, the solid muscles of his chest,//."

This intense, cannibalistic mode of loving is reminiscent of "an ancient Zoroastrian legend of the first parents of the human race," mentioned in Joseph Campbell's illuminating book, "Myths to Live By." The profound affection of these progenitors for their offspring has brought them to this bizarre incident: "and there were born to them two children, whom they loved so tenderly and irresistibly that they ate them up. The mother ate one; the father ate the other; and God, to protect the human race, then reduced the force of man's capacity for love by some ninety-nine per cent."

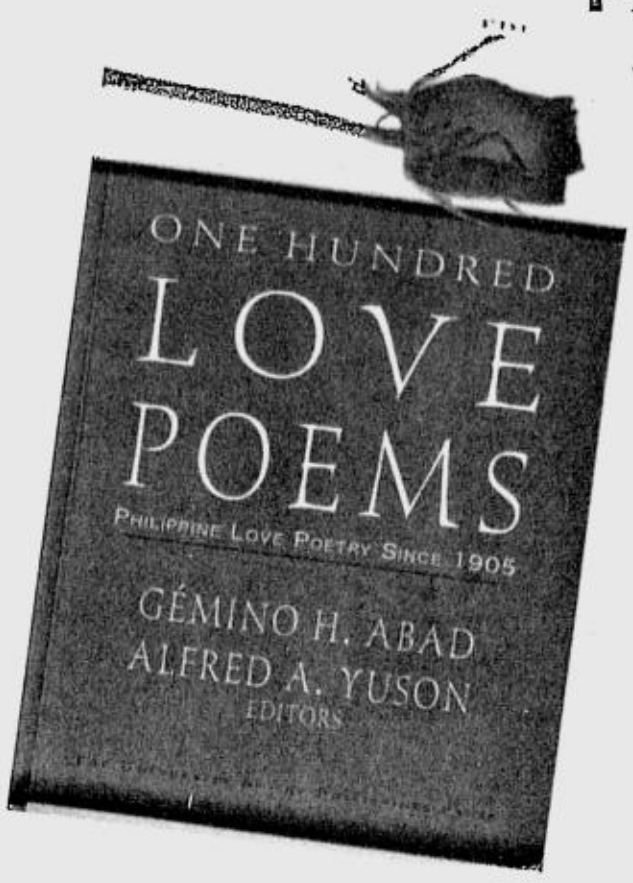
As a subject matter, love is inexhaustible, despite the countless poems and verses written about it. For this four-letter word is universal and personal, bitter and sweet, sacred and profane, painful and pleasurable, elusive and allusive, both. In his introduction to "The Penguin Book of Love Poetry," Jon Stallworthy observes that "there are almost as many definitions of love as there are poets, because most poets, like most other men and women, have something to say on the subject... Like any other actors in the human come-

dy, they speak most piercingly when they speak most personally, and because they speak personally their statements are as various as their fingerprints."

The poems in the new collection, therefore, are testaments to the diversity of love as versified by some of the best Filipino poets writing from English.

Every hopeless romantic and lover of good literature out there should buy a copy of the book, for it is reasonably priced, since it "is part of the UP Jubilee Student Edition designed to bring the best of Philippine literature within the reach of students and the general public." But this volume of verses is far from being cheap in terms of production design. In fact, it has a very professional, university-press look. Special mention should be made of the elegant rose-red cover design of Migs Villanueva, an accomplished writer herself.

The poems in this collection are testaments to the diversity of love as versified by some of the best Filipino poets writing from English



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BIBOT Amador, the last lioness /F4

Ballet Philippines mounts a darker 'Peter Pan'

By Joyce C. Abaño

BALLET Philippines has a great adventure in store for dance enthusiasts this December as it restages J. M. Barrie's "Peter Pan" with a highly modern flair in "Neverneverland."

According to the collaborators of this contemporary dance piece, this "Peter Pan," choreographed by Alden Lugnasin, is not the traditional full-length ballet nor is it taken from Broadway versions. The dark satire of Barrie's book and the idea behind the Disney film "Return to Neverland" propel this ballet version.

"We've followed a portion of the storyline of Disney's "Peter Pan II" where we see Wendy's daughter, Jane, but we've changed most of the story along the way," Lugnasin said. "A number of people have been asking me, *'wala na ba kayong bagong* piece?' So we thought we needed something new."

Lugnasin said he had just been to Bali where he handled a workshop and the experience made him realize how advanced Filipinos are in contemporary dance. "That's why I wanted to do this Peter Pan with a modern twist," he said.

To fit its highly contemporary idea, BP costume designer Mel Aguilar said Peter Pan will not be wearing his usual green garb.

"I've designed a purple and gray costume for Peter to wear," said Aguilar. "It's still a happy color but more different and, besides, we're trying to veer away from the traditional Peter Pan... and seeing the old green costume is totally traditional."

Since it's not a traditional full-length ballet, the dancers won't be dancing on pointe.

"It's going to be shown in a modern genre, everything is done *terra terre*... like on the ground.... it gives everything an earthy, realistic look and gives the dancers and the way they dance more weight," said BP artistic director Augustus Damian III.

Despite its challenging budget, BP promises an exciting and fun-filled adventure for the entire family.

Peter Pan will be alternately played by Clark Rambuyon and Christine Crame; Tinkerbelle by Kris-Belle Paclibar and Carissa Adea; Captain Hook by Irish Abejero and Jojo Mamangun; Jane by Candice Adea and Rhea Dumdum; and Wendy by Camille Ordinario-Joson and Hanedy Sala.

The show will run from Dec. 10-15 at the CCP Main Theater.

For ticket and schedule inquiries, call 8326011.

TINKERBELL with Captain Hook

TINKERBELL (Kris-Belle Paclibar) and Peter Pan (Clark Rambuyon) do a pas de deux after the battle with Captain Hook and the pirates

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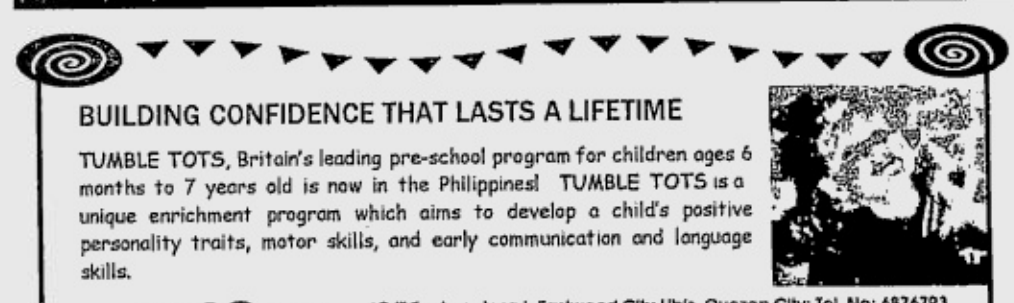

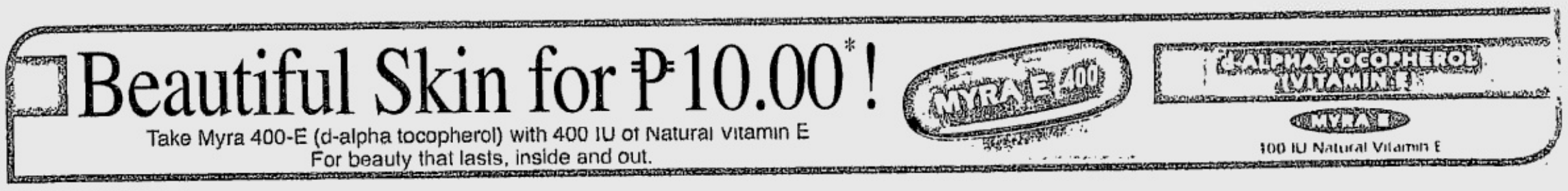

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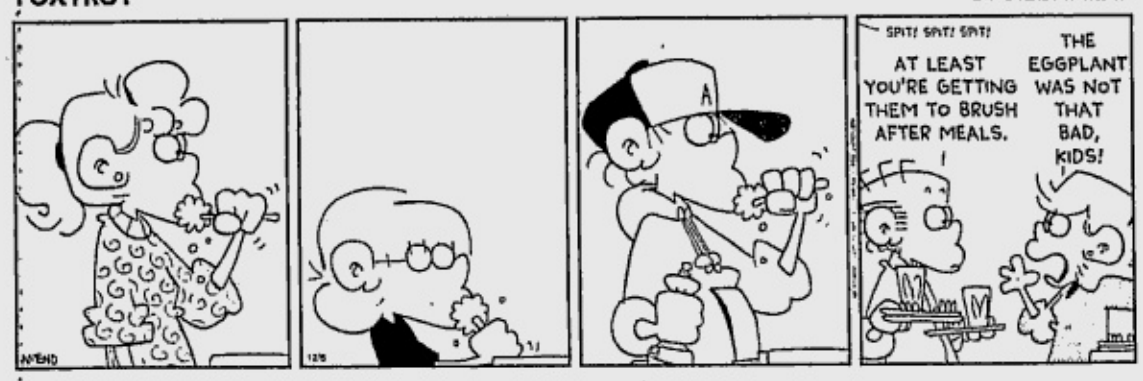

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

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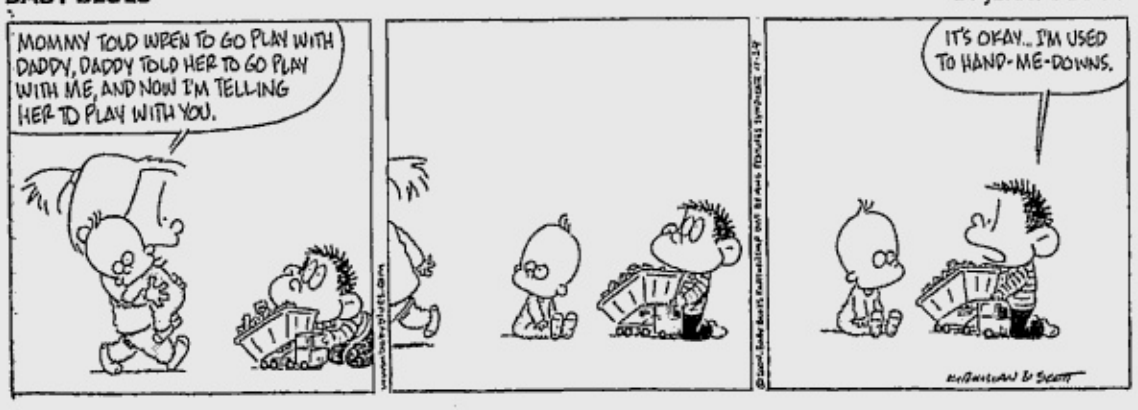

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a philosopher. You're also practical and resourceful. You make the best of what you have. You know when to hold and when to fold. This ability to be pragmatic takes you in many different directions. Increased solitude in the year ahead is likely because there is something important you have to learn or study.
Birthdate of: Steven Wright, comic/actor; Dave Brubeck, musician; Agnes Moorehead, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Loved ones and partners are more important to you today. Because of this, you might feel jealous or possessive. Guard against this knee-jerk reaction.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to take care of home crafts, to shop for hygiene items and to tidy up your bathroom. Buy those little items you've been out of for too long.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your nurturing instincts are aroused. You have a strong desire to take care of somebody. Naturally, this works very well if you're with children today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might try to hold on to something very tightly today. It could be a possession or even be a family member. Try to adopt a freer attitude toward losing something.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Female relatives are significant today. Time spent with siblings, especially, will be meaningful. Discussions tend to be emotional.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If you're not sure about spending your money today, then don't do it. You probably have a strong attachment to something right now. You feel you have to have it. (Do you?)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The Moon is in your sign today. This gives you a greater need to belong to others and talk to people. You need a lot of nurturing. (Warn your closest friend.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You will benefit from solitude today. Try to figure out if you can squeeze some time to be by yourself. You can't be all things to all people all the time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel unusually protective toward a friend today. Quite possibly, you will attract somebody who needs emotional support. (Others can sense you're ready to give it.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might display more sensitivity to those you work with today. Certainly, people notice you more for some reason. You're quite skilled working with the public today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Any kind of study or course work will please you today. You're hungry to learn something new. Short trips, travel and film, as well as bookstores and libraries, will appeal to you today.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): All your reactions to others are more intense today. That's because this is a rather emotional Moon for you. (The Moon is in a passionate part of your chart for the next two days.)

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Nellie G. Becker
Leesburg, GA

12/6/04

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14 Loos or Baker
15 Puzzle cube inventor Rubik
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17 "Skittle Players" painter
18 Big help
19 Steiger and Stewart
20 Curvaceous shape
23 Science class
24 Electron tube parts
25 Glossy paint
29 Dillon of "Drugstore Cowboy"
31 Verdi opera
32 Book after Joel
34 Ruhr industrial city
39 Anthony Burgess novel, with "A"
42 Wiesbaden's state
43 Short race
44 Scott Joplin works
45 Duplicate
47 Acapulco buddies
49 Whitener
53 Dryly humorous
54 Lillian Hellman play, with "The"
61 Oriental nanny
62 Eight in Barcelona
63 Shadings
64 Back of the neck
65 Beach toy
66 Grow dark, perhaps
67 God of war
68 Of sound mind
69 Wear away

DOWN
1 Window part
2 Not taken in by
3 Stead
4 Roman road
5 Hang loosely
6 Shish __
7 God of love
8 Baseball's Slaughter
9 Dieting adjective
10 "Key __"
11 For all to hear
12 Core group
13 Double curves
21 Susan Dey series
22 Bury
25 To __ his own
26 Cleopatra's river
27 Hubbubs
28 Apple PCs
29 Erin of "Happy Days"
30 Invites
33 __ vivendi (ways of life)
35 Indian garb
36 Hitch
37 Trademark waffle
38 Highland loch
40 Two-masted vessel
41 Chicago hub
46 Hooting cries
48 __ Beach, SC
49 Bob Hope film, "Call Me __"
50 Hunt or Alexander
51 Day's march
52 Dull pains
53 In one piece
55 College sports org.
56 Slender
57 Winter frost
58 Toward the center
59 Requisite
60 Feudal serf

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	S	A	I	L	S		S	C	A	P	U	L	A
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T	O	T		T	E	A	S	E	L	S		I	D	O
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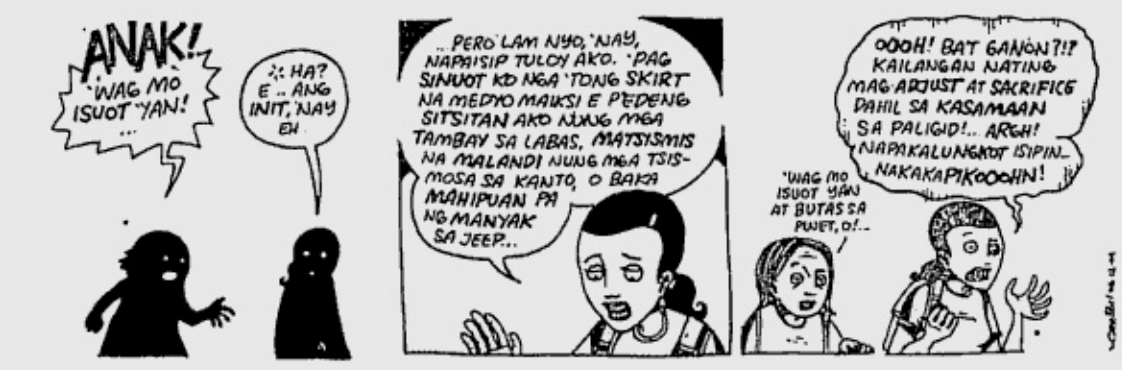
12/6/04

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

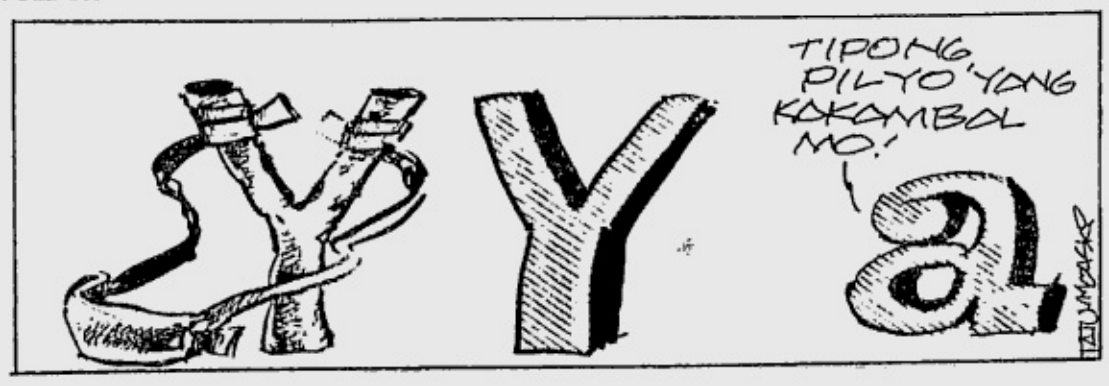
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



'Peter Pan' musical at SM Megamall

TRUMPETS, the theater company behind "Joseph the Dreamer," "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," "Little Mermaid" and "Mr. Noah's Big Boat," livens up the holiday season with a musical production of "Peter Pan and the Time Machine." Performances will be at the SM Megamall Cinema 10 on Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19.

"Peter Pan and the Time Machine" is an action-packed, fantasy adventure Christmas musical that will take audiences through different time zones—to a present-day shopping mall, to Santa's Toy Shop in the North Pole, to Victorian England where Scrooge lives, and to Bethlehem.

Two kids, Wendell and Mikee, and their nanny robot Robbie are whiling away Christmas Eve. All of a sudden, a strange intruder, Captain Hook, enters the kids' living room through a time machine. Captain Hook is looking for the "best Christmas present ever." The children are not able to comprehend the concept of Christmas, let alone produce a gift.

Captain Hook kidnaps Wendell and takes him into the time machine. Mikee and Robbie call for help. Just then, Peter Pan, the pixie hero from Never Never Land, enters through the time machine. Determined to rescue the boy, Peter Pan, along with Mikee and Robbie, travel through time in hot pursuit of Captain Hook.

"We want to make 'Peter Pan' a Christmas holiday treat for the entire family so we've dropped the usual P1,000 ticket to only P350 and P250," says Audie Gemora, Trumpets' president.

"That way, moviegoers can opt to watch a live theater production for a change. Watching a live theater performance will be an unforgettable, invaluable experience especially for their kids."

"Peter Pan and the Time Machine" stars Chevy Mercado as Peter Pan, Jun Ofrasio as Captain Hook, Sam Concepcion as Wendell, Cheska Ortega as Mikee, Roden Araneta as Robbie the Robot, Lawrence Martinez as Santa Claus, Analiza Zialcita as Mrs. Santa, Mayen Bustamante as the Angel, Joann de la Fuente as Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, and David Cosico as Scrooge, among others.

The show 's book and libretto is by Jaime del Mundo, direction by Audie Gemora, cheoreography by James Laforteza, sets by Tata Tuviera, and costumes by Eric Pineda. Robot design is by Liz Batoctoy, and the flying machine is courtesy of Eric Torrente.

Performances are at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Call 6335010, 6362842, 9115555 or 8919999.

SAM Concepcion as Wendell, Cheska Ortega as Mikee, Chevy Mercado as Peter Pan and Roden Araneta as Robbie the Robot

THE MANOEUVRES

TRUMPETS HOLDS STREETDANCE CONTEST

High school and college dance groups can register for the Trumpets Playshop's First Streetdance Competition until Dec. 15. Participating dance groups must be composed of 8-10 members, all male or all female or mixed. The group must prepare a four to five-minute dance routine of three to five dance medleys of pure streetdance tunes. They must obtain a recommendation letter from their school. Registration fee is P1,500 per group. Winning dance groups will be featured with the Manoeuvres during the latter's 20th year anniversary concert early next year. Call 6362842 or 6335010.

Singalong parish marks centennial

THE PARISH of St. Anthony de Padua in the old district of Singalong in Manila launches its celebration for its 100th year of foundation with a solemn High Mass at 6 tonight.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales will bless and officially open the Jubilee Door amid the singing of the Te Deum, followed by a solemn processio.

Parishioners will gather as early as 4:30 p.m. for the parade of barangay participants.

The St. Anthony de Padua parish was carved out of the Sta. Clara de Montefalco Parish in 1905 and given to the care and administration of the Capuchin Fathers, who also established a school.

The concrete church built to replace the old visita was destroyed during the liberation of Manila. A new church was completed in 1968.

The Capuchin Fathers turned over the administration of the parish to the Archdiocese of Manila on April 1, 1995. Jaime L. Cardinal Sin, then the Manila archbishop, appointed Msgr. Jose Clemente Ignacio as the parish's first diocesan priest. In 2001, he was replaced by Msgr. Rolando R. de la Cruz, who is also the treasurer of the Archdiocese of Manila.

The year-long celebration of the parish centennial grants a plenary indulgence to participants. The decree from the Apostolic Penitentiary granting the plenary indulgence will be read during the Mass.

The parish will present a program featuring Christmas songs from its grand choir and an MTV of the parish centennial.

Powers talents show their wares

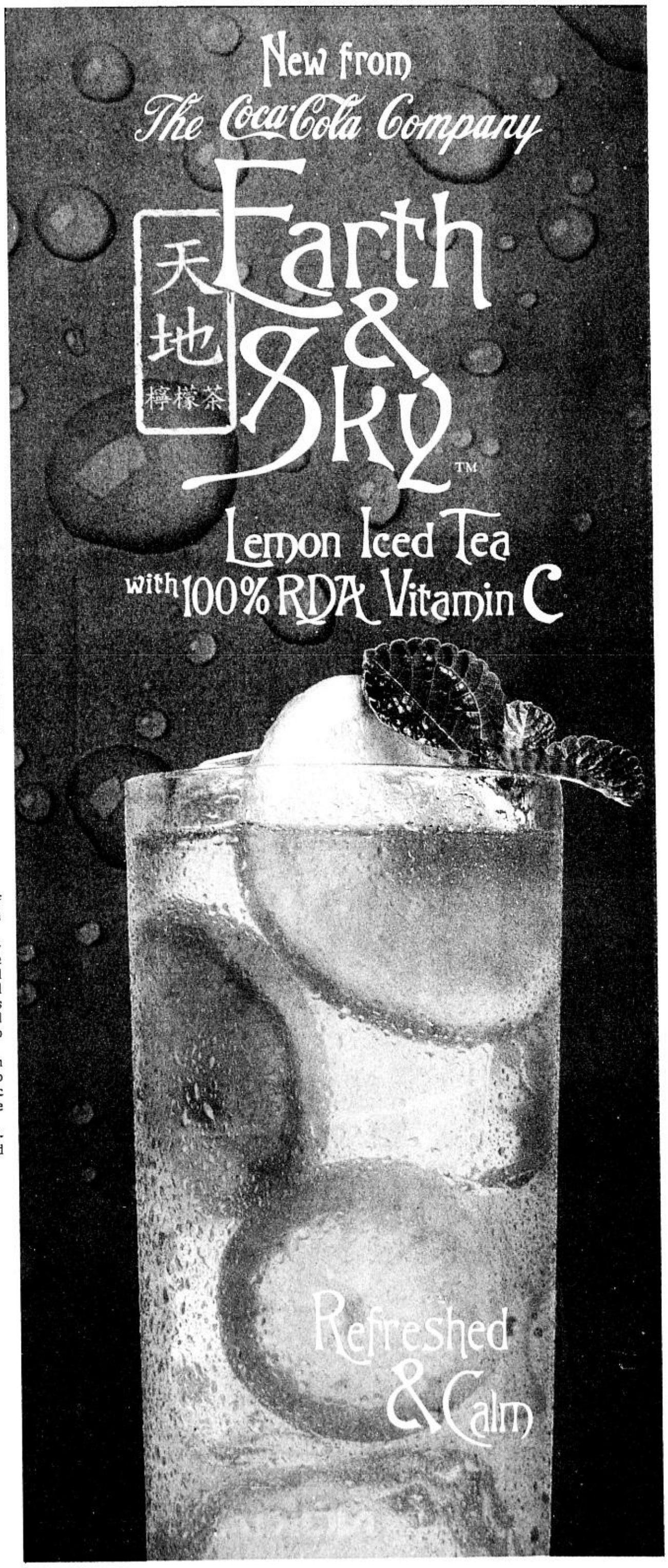
JOHN Robert Powers will hold an exclusive invitational activity to showcase the talents of the students in acting, hosting, modeling, singing and dancing on Dec. 10 and 17, 6 p.m. at the 4/F Casmer Bldg. on Salcedo Street, Legazpi Village, Makati City.

Talent agents have been invited to the show. This activity will show off the craft the students learned the John Robert Powers way.

In Asia, the Philippines In particular, since 1984, John Robert Powers is still very much in the business of making it happen for people.

With Manila as the regional Asian headquarters, JRP schools flourish in Thailand, Indonesia and Japan. The JRP School in Makati alone counts with the total enrollment of about 2,000 students, most of whom transform amazingly at the end of their course, according to Marivic Padilla-Catala, JRP international director.

Call 8929511.



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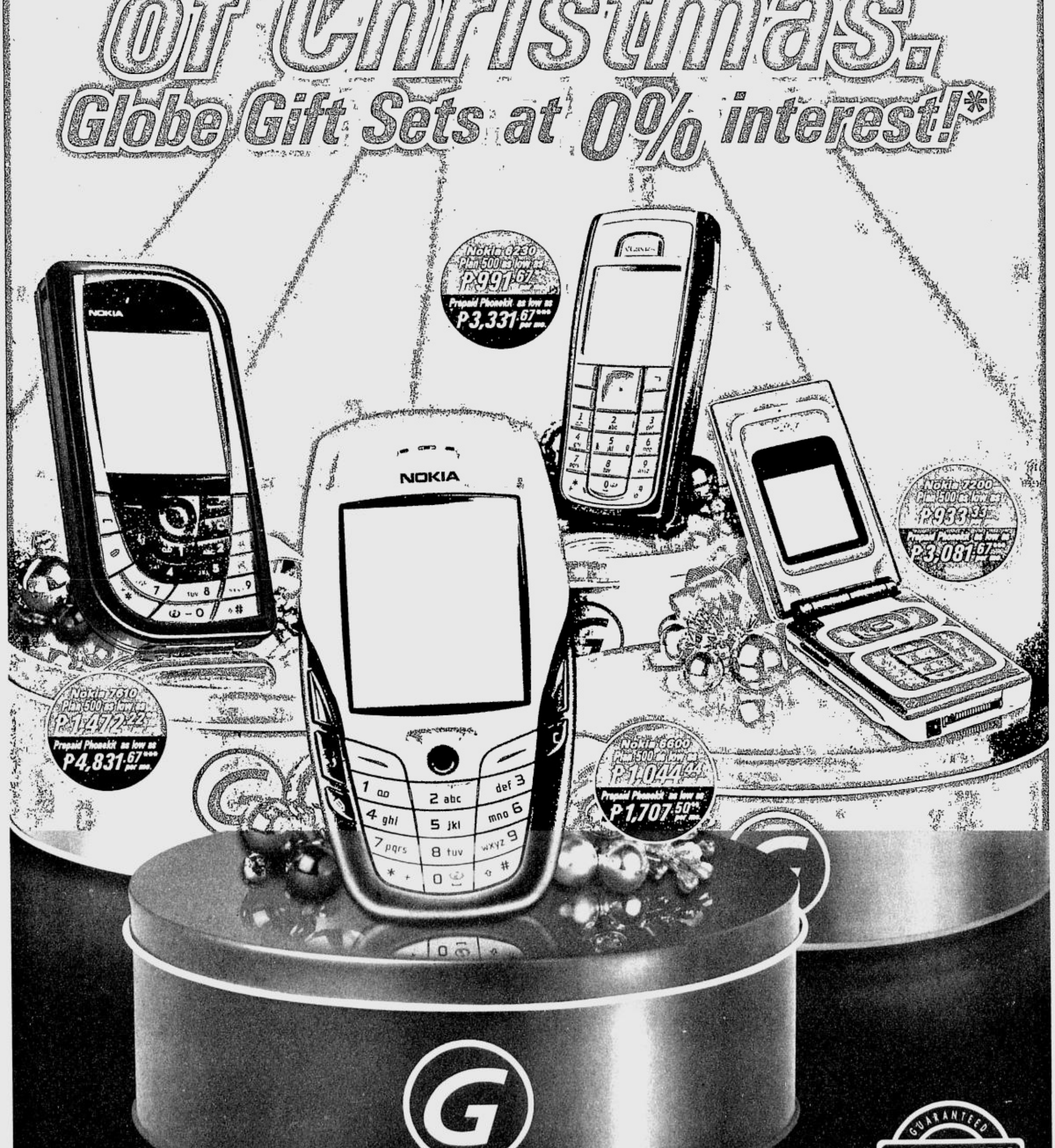

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NEARLY three generations of Philippine theater artists, including Lea Salonga (center), lustily bid Bibot goodbye.

"I WANT to show kids who had never seen theater, and people who could never afford to go to London or Broadway, the classics in their original form."

The legacy of Zeneida Amador

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

FIFTY of them gathered in a close circle outside the Magallanes Chapel where their mentor's ashes were interred. The youngest was in her late teens, the oldest probably in his 50s. Many were still active in the business, some had been absent for a long time.

Eyes closed in deep concentration, their voices rose in solemn unison, making the closing credo of the Broadway musical "Camelot" almost a hymn. The singing of the melody seemed perfect and, given the situation, sounded inspiring.

But before the last note hit, acting choirmaster and director Michael Williams shook his head in dissatisfaction and said, "No, guys, wait, you don't stretch it until at this point..."

And the 50-odd musical theater artists comprising three generations of Repertory Philippines took their cue and started again. The next day, they would pay tribute at the Onstage Greenbelt Theater to the company's founder and artistic director, Zeneida "Bibot" Amador, who passed away on Nov. 28 because of cancer.

The actors' attention to detail and perfectionism are a Rep trademark. The over 100 artists who had trained and worked in it during its 38-year history fondly refer to the sleepless nights and the screaming sessions pressed upon the tardy and the unprepared as battle scars.

Yet, ultimately, in spite of the occasional tensions and semi-rivalries, the Philippine theater community has always remained a close-knit, outspoken family.

Amador, along with Rep cofounder Baby Barredo, was one of its most hardworking parents.

Many of Amador's "artistic" children have grown from teenagers who caught the passion of the stage to become professional theater actors, directors, production managers and designers.

Three eventually put up their own companies: Audie Gemora and the family-friendly Trumpets; Bart Guingona of the intellectually provocative Actors' Actors Inc.; and Monique Wilson's feminist New Voice Company.

Then there is the doorway to the international arena which Rep's training opened for many actors, starting in 1989 with nine members who landed roles in Cameron Mackintosh's "Miss Saigon," including Junix Inocian, Pinky Amador, Victor Laurel, Williams, Wilson, and Lea Salonga, who won the Olivier and Tony awards as the title character.

Wilson, who appeared in her first Rep play at age 9 and stayed until her departure for "Saigon" 10 years later, acknowledges: "My real training came from Rep. That's 10 years of my life, my formative years when my attitude and value systems were being formed. When we did 'Saigon,' our sense of professionalism and standards of working were already there; London allowed us to hone it on a different level. That was our edge. Cameron could throw us at the deep end of anything and we could do it."

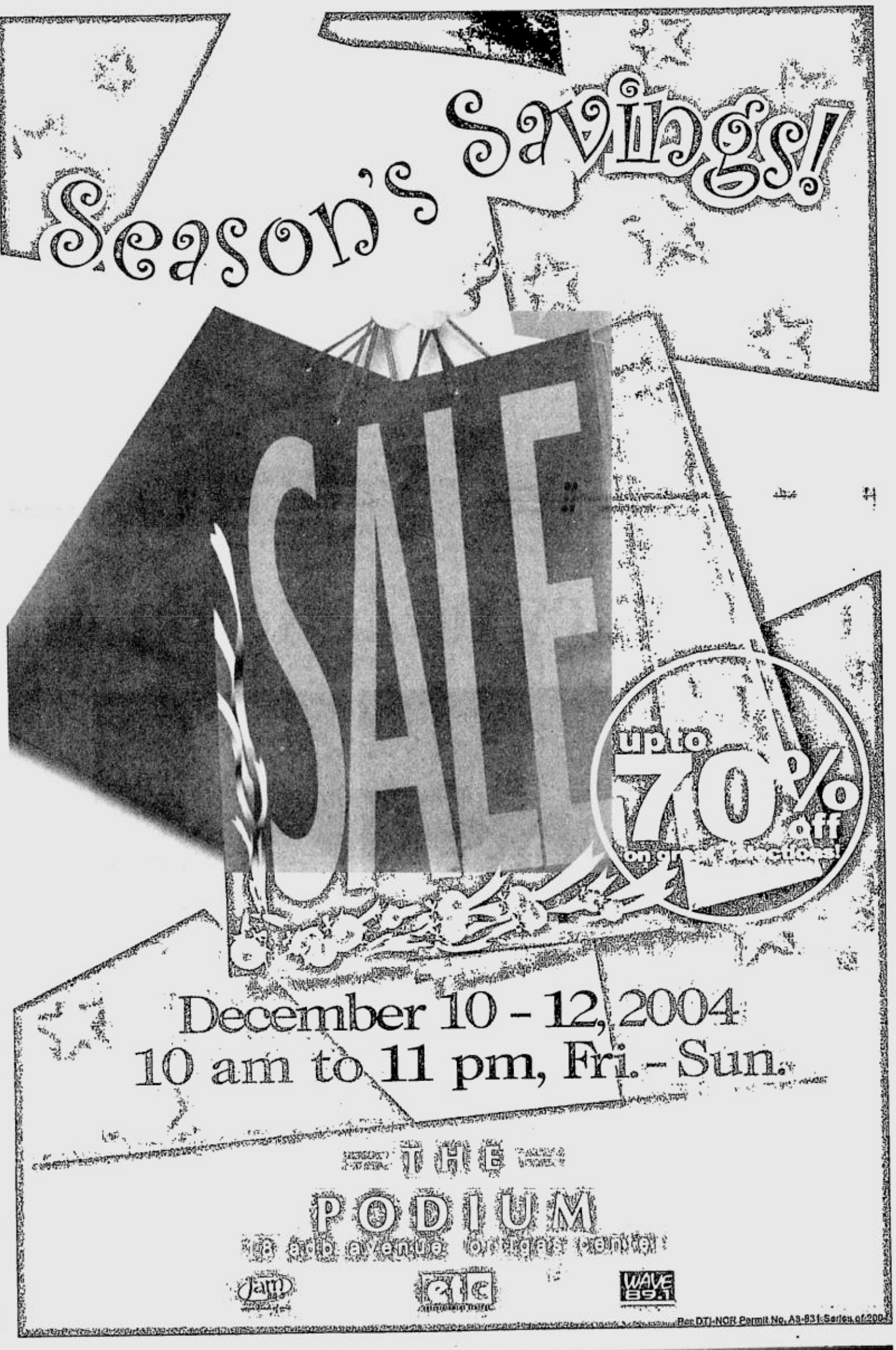
Hard knocks

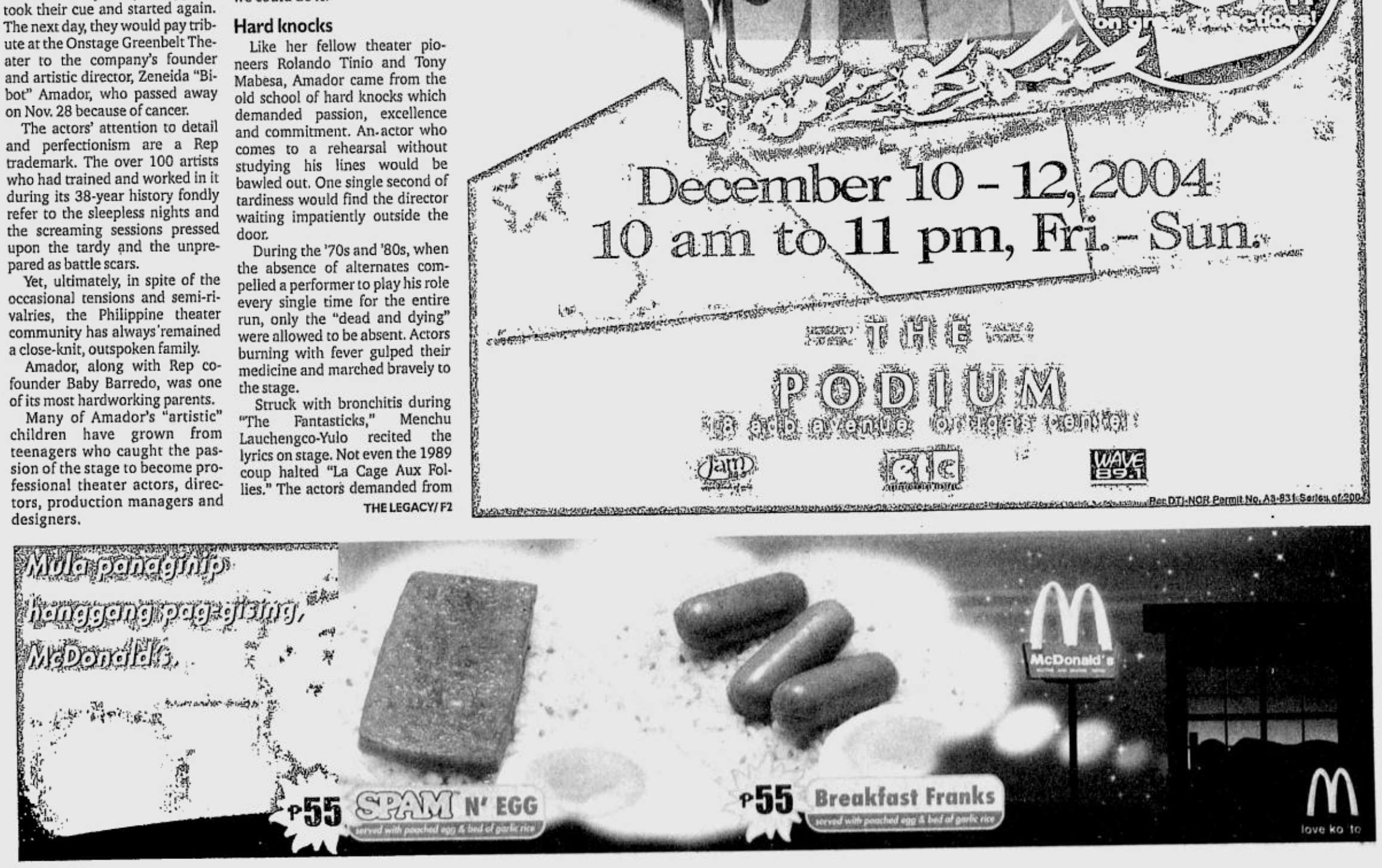
Like her fellow theater pioneers Rolando Tinio and Tony Mabesa, Amador came from the old school of hard knocks which demanded passion, excellence and commitment. An actor who comes to a rehearsal without studying his lines would be bawled out. One single second of tardiness would find the director waiting impatiently outside the door.

During the '70s and '80s, when the absence of alternates compelled a performer to play his role every single time for the entire run, only the "dead and dying" were allowed to be absent. Actors burning with fever gulped their medicine and marched bravely to the stage.

Struck with bronchitis during "The Fantasticks," Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo recited the lyrics on stage. Not even the 1989 coup halted "La Cage Aux Follies." The actors demanded from

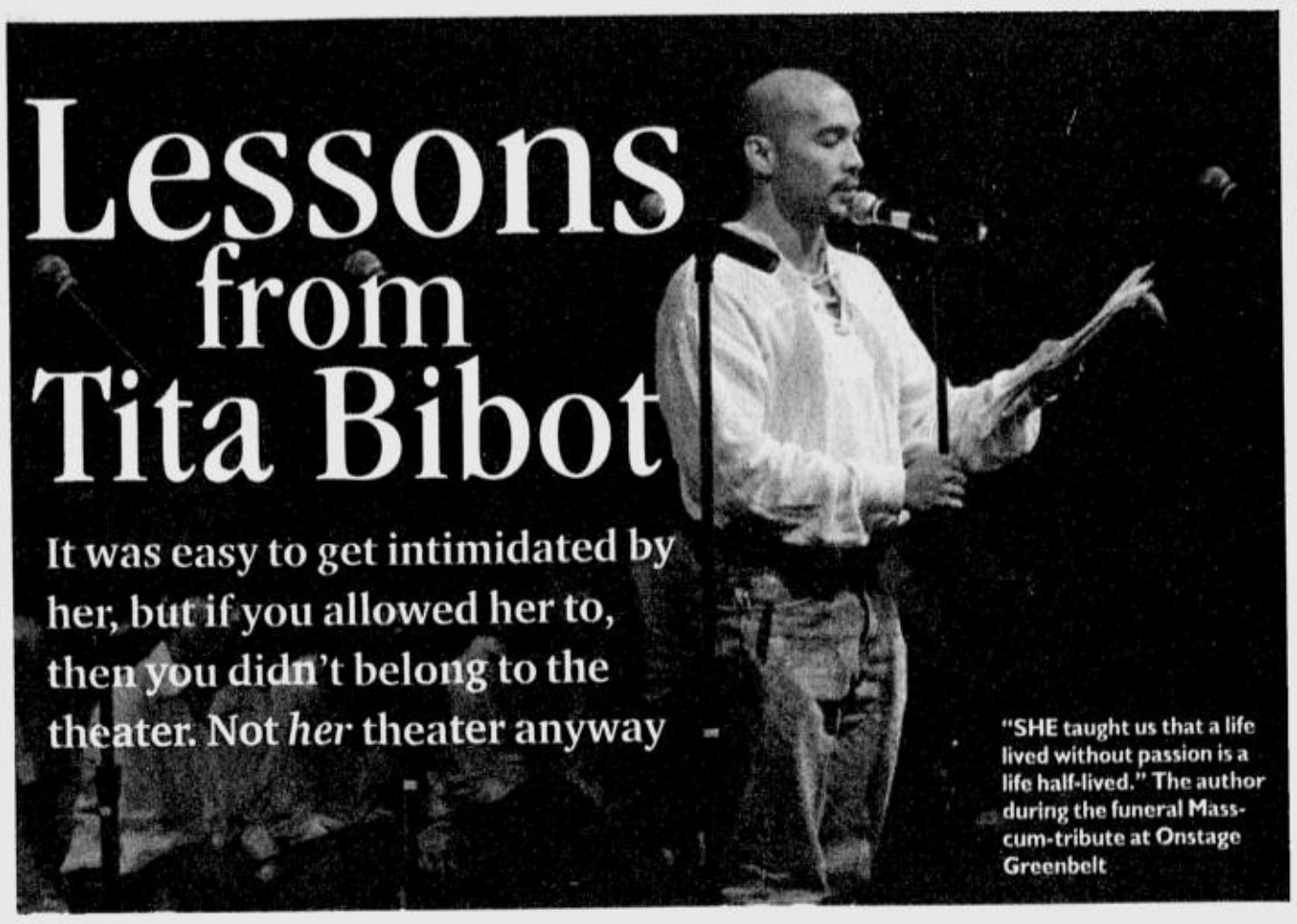
THE LEGACY/ F2





Lessons from Tita Bibot

It was easy to get intimidated by her, but if you allowed her to, then you didn't belong to the theater. Not *her* theater anyway



"SHE taught us that a life lived without passion is a life half-lived." The author during the funeral Mass-cum-tribute at Onstage Greenbelt

SCENE from "Two Into One"

By Bart Guingona
Contributor

ZENEIDA "Bibot" Amador's reputation preceded her, a reputation which was certainly warranted given the timber and considerable volume of her baritone. Whenever she was within a mile of yelling distance of us, we quaked in our shoes.

Imagine my apprehension the first time I went to an audition—late, I might add—for my first play with Rep, 1983's "Fiddler on the Roof." She looked at me under furrowed brows, the kind of look that wilts the fainthearted, and, as I understood later, was also the look that was meant to weed out the men from the boys—or, in this case, the true artists from the dilettantes. Anyway, she looked me in the face and coolly asked me—and I remember it word for word—"Son, do you like the theater?"

"Yes, ma'am," I said.

"That's sir to you," was her grumpy reply.

It was easy to get intimidated by her, but if you allowed her to, then, well, you just didn't belong to the theater. Not *her* theater, anyway.

Since then, for the next nine years I spent with Rep—my most formative as an artist—I came to understand that in Rep, one could eventually graduate into her circle of peers in whom she confided, joked around, shared meals and outings with. This was the realm in which one saw how quick she was to get hurt, how quick to cry and be alarmed. How vulnerable—in short, how human and endearing.

Never personal

But being the professional that she was, she was never personal with anyone even in her most violent tirades. I've often joined her for a social meal or cocktail after being dressed down during rehearsals only a few minutes earlier.

In the interest of pacing, about which she was meticulous, I have listed a few things we all learned along the way:

The things she taught us:

1. Time is short. And I don't just refer to her time here on earth. Brevity and efficiency were the hallmarks of all Rep productions. Even as I speak now before you, I can hear her snapping impatiently at me, practically tearing at her salt-and-pepper hair, "Pace it! Pace it!"

2. Be a professional in whatever you do. Be the best janitor. Be the best actor. And just *be*! There's no acting please in the theater.

3. Never take yourself too seriously. Otherwise no one else will. Take *theater* seriously but never yourself. Roselyn was telling me the other night how, between shows of "Nunsense," she was playing a game with Jamie Wilson and Dennis Lagdameo who were both just kids then. They were trying to name as many variations of nuns as possible—Singing Nun, Cooking Nun, etc., when she suddenly came up with Flashing Nun and lifted her habit. Luckily for them, she had her customary shorts and loose shirt underneath.

LEADER and follower

4. Corollarily, what other people think about you is less important than how you think of yourself. It was her certainty about who she was and what she had to do that made her such a commanding presence. She was equally adept at self deprecation as she was at retrieving chunks of wisdom from her vast store of knowledge. And she expressed herself in the most witty, articulate language you might ever hear—either in King's English or in Quezonian Tagalog, and, either way, liberally peppered with the most exquisite profanity. Her imaginative use of invectives and cusswords brought to light a new art form—what I call "creative insultry."

No small roles

5. That there are no small roles, only small actors, and plays are a form of play that needs to be taken seriously. She made us want to convince the rest of the world it was a serious undertaking—because it kept us in touch with our own humanity. That indeed, nothing was more satisfying or noble, or worthy than the dogged pursuit of the truth in a rehearsal hall in order to purvey that same truth to an audience. I remember her telling me once, years ago, that she had been invited to run for office by some political party. She told me this story, ending with swear words for the kind of compromises she would have to make as as a politician—"bleep bleep *na* politician *na* bleep bleep *na yan*... Give me the theater any day!"

6. That show business is 50-percent show and 50-percent business. How Rep has survived through all sorts of political and economic crises practically unscathed have got to be a testament to her impeccable business acumen, coupled, of course, with Tita Joy's (Virata) extraordinary zeal.

7. That lipstick is an essential accessory and comfortable footwear should be a non-negotiable given. Now, if that isn't feminine and masculine and truly astonishing all at the same time, I don't know what is.

8. That honesty, in direct opposition to political expediency, was another non-negotiable. She always said she was not here to win a popularity contest. She would be the first to shamelessly shed tears when moved, the first to yell in despair when desperate. It was this kind of honesty that might have seemed offensive to some but which many of us aspired for. And I think the world would be better off if we all had even a fraction of that honesty.

9. That a life lived without passion is a life half-lived. And that to love is meaningless if it isn't invested with passion. I guess that's why the theater made so much sense to us. She made us see it as the path of least compromise—a path that offered us redemption from the corruption, mediocrity and bargain-basement cynicism of the world outside our rehearsal halls. The fire of her own passion burned so brightly in her undying and unconditional love for Tita Baby (Barredo), for literature, for traveling, for food and wine, and yes for mahjongg, that we who have seen the light of that flame have ourselves walked away aflame.

10: That the only excuse for being absent from a show or rehearsal was if you were dead or dying. I guess that gives you a convenient excuse, Tita Bibot.

The legacy of Zeneida Amador

From page F1

the soldiers guarding the Meralco Theater barricade, "Let us in! The show must go on!"

Yulo recalls that "Bibot's passion for theater was contagious. It was almost sacred. You do not do anything to disrupt the hard work that was going on. Every performance was delivered as if it were your last. Bibot made us strong and prepared us for the vulnerabilities actors experience on stage."

If Amador was a disciplinarian onstage, she was second parent and close friend off it. She was a cook who prepared dishes for the cast members at her home, a shoulder to cry on during relationship problems, and a proud professor who wrote letters of recommendation for her students entering international drama school.

Even the most intense disagreements never stayed for long. Gemora, who became estranged with Amador for some time, made peace with his old teacher at her deathbed.

"I had been wanting to come for some time but I thought that seeing me might worsen her condition," he says. "But during that final weekend, Bibot's assistant told me that she had forgiven me a long time ago, and that she saw our disagreement as business, never personal. At her bed, when I said I was sorry, Bibot just said, '*Wala na iyon*.' After I prayed for her, she thanked me and went to sleep."

Love for written word

Amador, who acquired an AB English and a Master's in Literature from UST, was also a teacher who loved the written word.

After finishing postgraduate courses at New York's American Academy of the Dramatic Arts and teaching briefly at University of Southern Dakota, she taught English and Literature at St. Joseph's College in Quezon City.

Beyond the daily grind of rehearsals, Amador would hold literature classes that gave her young actors a deeper appreciation of Shakespeare and Sophocles.

Guingona, who entered Rep right out of UP, says that "it was her love for language and literature that influenced me the most. Her analysis and characterization were brilliant."

LEA Salonga, Rep's most famous and accomplished product

These same classes awakened the pen of Luna Inocian, the Rep "all-around-backstage-and-PR" person who became co-writer of Trumpets' "The Little Mermaid" and "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe."

"Where did I learn [writing]? By reading and watching the other plays. I needed a model of experience that had been tested throughout the centuries," he says.

Inocian's comment echoes Amador's answer to criticisms leveled against Rep's preference for English-language foreign material. Rep was founded during the years leading to the First Quarter Storm when nationalist sentiments ran high.

Several years ago, Amador told this writer, "Rolando and Tony were already translating the classics. Peta was pioneering original Filipino plays in Tagalog. My vision is different. I want to show kids who had never seen theater, and people who could never afford to go to London or Broadway, the classics in their original form."

TONY Amador, Bibot's brother

Left unspoken was Amador's lament that Rep never received any award or recognition, nor its core of actors any form of scholarship, because of its choice of language and material.

Late recognition

The recognition did come at Amador's deathbed: The National Commission on Culture and the Arts' (NCCA) highest, the Dangal ng Haraya Award, "symbolizing our people's deepest appreciation for your invaluable training of talents that have garnered critical acclaim and brought prestige for the Philippines in the international scene, particularly in the West End and Broadway."

Spearheading the tribute, ironically and fittingly, is NCCA executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez. Fittingly because Alvarez is Amador's peer who fought in the same battle, promoting national theater at a time when there was no audience, venue, and funding to speak of. Ironically, because Alvarez's company, Peta, in its creating original Filipino work, went a totally different direction from Rep.

Alvarez and Amador, who had known each other since youth as Fr. James Reuter's theater protégés, kept their friendship and mutual respect despite the differences. Upon her appointment last October, Alvarez planned to give awards of recognition to women who had contributed to national theater, Amador among them.

Learning that her old friend was fighting cancer fast-tracked the process; the NCCA executive director did not want to give it posthumously.

In the end, the formal letter of recognition was read to the dying theater director. The award ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 28.

"People think that we were doing different things, but it was the same," Alvarez points out. "We were working for the arts. Theater is a diverse community. In training people, Bibot contributed magnificently. Her commitment to professionalism was a discipline that she ingrained in the people that she trained. And if you're training your writers and people, there is a wealth of dramatic and literary heritage that you can learn from. There are eternal values and norms that [will] enrich their own creative norms."

As for the English-language factor, Guidote adds, "With globalization, you really need [it]; to be multi-lingual is good."

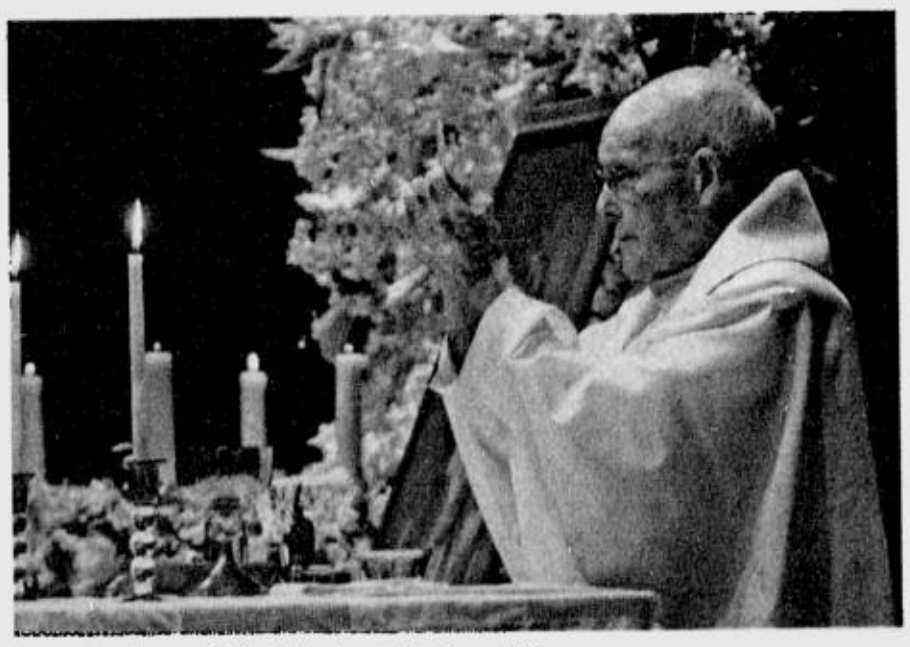
"Saigon" Manila producer Dong Alegre, who assisted in the Mackintosh auditions, says he "will always salute Bibot for having that vision to perform theater in English. Without the training that these Filipinos had in English-spoken theater, we would not have been successful in casting the Filipinos of 'Saigon.' I ascribe to her the single-handed development of English-speaking theater and actors. Rep has served as the training ground for many of our actors in the local and international scene."

Inocian, one of many artists who'd like to explore this bigger picture, admits, "I don't want my work to stay in the Philippines. I write for a Pinoy audience, but I'm looking beyond."

Theater is a tough commitment, whether you're vying for your place in the sun against Brits, Americans, Singaporeans, and Malaysians in their own country, or sticking it out in Manila with its dwindling sponsorship and still young audience.

But the "Camelot" credo is apropos: Like King Arthur passing on the memory of that "one brief shining moment" to the would-be knight, Amador's vision will continue through her creative progeny.

As Gemora puts it, "She taught us that theater can be an industry that we can build. Many of us who have pursued it as our careers—Trumpets, whatever else I am doing at this moment, all of that—we are Bibot's legacy."



FR. JAMES Reuter, S.J., officiating at the funeral Mass

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REP'S "The Wizard of Oz," with the Scarecrow (Jejie Esguerra), the Cowardly Lion (Oliver Usison), Dorothy (Liesl Batucan) and Tinman (Niccolo Manahan)

Rep stages 'Wizard of Oz'

DIRECTOR Baby Barredo has assembled a cast of seasoned Repertory Philippines (REP) actors, choreographer Jaime del Prado, set designer Johann Quisumbing, and costume designer Edgar San Diego to stage the musical stage version of the MGM classic "The Wizard of Oz" in Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage, Greenbelt, Makati.

REP subscriber performances are on Dec. 11 and 17 at 8:00 p.m., and on Dec.19 at 2:30 p.m.; Tickets available at the Ayala Cinema ticketron. Call 8870710.

THE WICKED Witches of Oz (Ayam Barredo, Ana Bitong and Geny Baluyot)

Goodbye, Ms Amador, and thank you. Bark, bellow and break a leg Up There

The last lioness

REP babies JM Rodriguez, Menchu Lauchengco Yulo, Michael Williams and Noel Rayos paying tribute to their mentor

ZENEIDA Amador, 1933-2004

By Gibbs Cadiz

EVEN now we remember, clear as day, the very first Repertory Philippines production we watched.

It was "Stop the World-I Want to Get Off," at the Insular Life Auditorium in Makati in 1991. We were 21 years old. The hall was small, the seats half-empty, the temperature arctic—but the musical itself was a hoot.

We don't remember now who played Littlechap, the lead role, but Joy Virata was a riot playing a variety of characters, including a Russian lady with a bad case of the rolling r's.

To a fresh-faced hick from the province on his first anxious months in the city, the show was both escape and education—a boundary-altering experience swimming in color and melody. Every Rep season promised four such plays to savor—strange, funny, discombobulating stories to make us feel more sophisticated than we had a right to.

It had us by curtain call.

Formidable

Afterwards, exiting, we saw her. Zeneida Amador, Rep's founder and artistic director, was standing by the entrance, in light blue shorts, plain shirt and sneakers.

She was smaller than we had thought. But yes, pretty much as formidable-looking as the stories had made her out to be. We were too intimidated to say "hi." Mortals don't say "hi" to the gods, do they? And certainly not to one as fiery-tongued as Ms Amador. So we slunk away.

It was always "Miss" Amador. Even as we would spot her—dressed always in shorts and sneakers—whenever we watched Rep plays (later at the William J. Shaw Theater at Shangri-La Plaza), we didn't mind being awed every time. Bibot sounded too presumptuously chummy. For a pillar like her, Ms Amador rang just fine—though we could imagine her scorning the fuss.

That awe was out of respect for her heroic work in the theater. Season after season (37 years and counting), with virtually no government support, Rep has slogged on by presenting Broadway plays and musicals, at a time when nationalist theater is deemed more crucial, given the country's dire social straits.

Its choice of English-language material is often derided as elitist and irrelevant. But as its founder once explained in a TV interview, Rep is dedicated to honing Filipino talent, professionalizing theater and giving audiences value for the money they fork over.

"If doing your best and working with the best is being 'elitist,' then we can't help that," she said—or words to that effect.

Truly, who could argue with the product? In its heyday, a Rep production nearly always guaranteed high production values, sharp acting, sparkling voices if it was a musical, and the gleaming, unfakable savvy that came with equal parts hard practice and proud passion in the craft of theater.

Mammoth show

We look back and realize that some of the happiest moments of our theater-going life have been spent watching Rep shows.

"Les Miserables," of course, comes first to memory. That mammoth production, staged at the Meralco Theater by special arrangement with a grateful Cameron Mackintosh (for the raft of fine Filipino talent he poached from Rep for his "Miss Saigon" productions worldwide), still ranks as one of Philippine theater's watershed achievements—perhaps never to be equalled in these beggarly times.

We were in the audience when Rep took its first tentative steps at the Shaw Theater, coming up with an uneven but spiritedly mounted production of Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods." Later, we thrilled to "Once on This Island," and the leads were so good that we recall their names until now: Gladys Silverio and Nonie Buencamino.

We also saw a tiny Aiza Seguerra dancing and singing as one of six Motown-charged chorus girls in "Little Shop of Horrors."

Among the Rep regulars, Menchu Lauchengco Yulo sang a bravura "The Ladies Who Lunch" in "Company," Cocoy Laurel grooved like one hippie fella in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," Ralion Alonzo danced up a storm in everything from "Camelot" to the recent "Fame," and Baby Barredo (Ms Amador's lifetime muse and partner) was a brassy presence in, among many others, "Gigi" and "Annie."

The straight plays, too, were just as polished. Bart Guingona haunted us as John Proctor in "The Crucible," Michael Williams was a side-splitting Tartuffe in Moliere's play, Lyon Roque cross-dressed to the nines in a play based on "La Cage Aux Folles," the cast of Michael Frayn's "Noises Off" was a perfect symphony of well-timed exits and entrances, and Celia Diaz-Laurel (with Joy Virata and another veteran actress) was radiant in a comedy whose title we now fail to recall, but not its bittersweet hilarity.

Rep often failed at Shakespeare. We saw a grating "Julius Caesar" and a wan "Romeo and Juliet." Brecht and Ionesco were never tried. And when it mounted its first homegrown musical ("Miong"), the results were middling, derivative.

But give it Neil Simon or Woody Allen or Tom Stoppard anytime and you're guaranteed to go home happy.

Foghorn voice

In one Simon play, "Lost in Yonkers," Ms Amador played the crabby Jewish grandma terrorizing her two young wards. It could be argued she was playing herself: she was curt and brutal, but also gruffly affectionate. We can still remember her voice—big, blowsy, like a foghorn blast.

No wonder generations of theater people quaked to that sound. Such was her notoriety as a hard-driving, hell-raising director adamant about fulfilling a certain set of theatrical standards.

Once, rehearsing "Evita" with the rest of the cast, a friend of ours found himself at the receiving end of that legendary temper. Flustered at the tirade (and a bit hard of hearing, as he had only one ear functioning), the poor guy tried to smile. To which Ms Amador bellowed, "Stop smiling or I'll smash your face in!"

Perhaps our friend's only consolation was, he had joined an illustrious company of actors who had been, at one time or another, the object of Ms Amador's tough love: Lea Salonga, Monique Wilson, Miguel Faustmann, Subas Herrero, Mitch Valdez, Pinky Amador, Jonjon Briones, Leo Martinez, Junix Inocian, Noel Trinidad, Jay Glorioso, Audie Gemora, Chinggoy Alonzo, Liza Infante, Leo Valdez, Bonggoy and Patty Manahan, Noel Rayos, Liezl Batucan, Anna Bitong, Maya Barredo, Gia Macuja, JM Rodriguez, Carla Martinez... Read the names and realize the breadth and depth of the legacy this great lioness of Philippine theater has given the country.

And the world, too, with the big strides Rep-trained actors have made not only on Broadway and the West End, but on stages in Asia, Europe and Australia.

Touchstone moments

We count two touchstone experiences in our youth that have made us write incessantly about theater today.

The first, in high school, was watching Sining Kambayoka's "Halik sa Kampilan," which opened our eyes to the richness of our indigenous theatrical heritage. The second was entering that small hall at the Insular Life building and surrendering ourselves to first-class "elitist" theater.

We write because, without our knowing it, an artist's surpassing vision had once reached across the proscenium arch and touched us, enlarging our paltry world in ways we dare not count now.

So—goodbye, Ms Amador, and thank you. Bark, bellow and break a leg Up There.

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Nothing to be afraid of

RODERICK Paulate is wasted in this film...

All the atmosphere and spooky sets in the world cannot compensate for "Pa-Siyam's" inability to generate genuine horror.

...and so is Cherrie Pie Picache

By Ruben Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REGAL Films' "Pa-Siyam" is an artsy ghost story that mostly takes place inside a house, which is one of the best-looking horror sets we've ever seen. From the moment Roderick Paulate's Nilo shows up on its doorstep, that house shrieks of terror.

"Pa-Siyam" is stylishly spooky and the presence of evil is so palpable, we could almost touch it. Unfortunately, all the atmosphere and spooky sets in the world cannot compensate for the movie's inability to generate genuine horror.

The problem with "Pa-Siyam" is that it gives the audience nothing to be afraid of. It tries to scare by building a mood and succeeds at it, too. Okay, we're ready to be scared. We anticipate moments that would cause our skin to creep, shocks that would throw us off our seats. But we just keep waiting. For two hours, we watch the characters being frightened and distressed, and we ask, "But why?"

From the start, the house appears to be reeling from high electricity rates—in spite of local tradition that dictates all lights should be ablaze when an occupant dies. This family seems bent on wallowing in darkness, perhaps the better to scare the audience.

A few "boo" moments

The dead person is Nilo's mother. Her body lies in the living room of the old and decrepit ancestral home. Rows of chairs are neatly lined up, but there are no people around other than Nilo's four siblings and a niece. No one was present to witness the mother's last days, indeed not her last few years. Apparently, she was left in the care of the family's *kasambahay* after her children chose to leave home and go their separate ways.

We sense that something is not quite right about the way she died. There's tension as her children discuss burial matters and the traditional novena for the dead, or *pa-siyam*, that follows. Something, of course, is bound to happen before the *pa-siyam* is over.

DIRECTOR Erik Matti with his cast, in the "stylishly spooky" ancestral home

REVIEW

But the story progresses so slowly, it threatens to lull the viewers to sleep. We wait for those "boo" moments to jerk us back to wakefulness, and admittedly there are some, but not enough to overcome long minutes of tedium. There's a lack of energy in the proceedings that not even an intriguing twist and the expected final ghost encounter can overcome. Watching "Pa-Siyam" is like listening to radio talent Kuya Cesar tell a ghost story.

Gross, not scary

In general, our standards for horror movies are pretty easy to meet. A few prickles of dread here, some jolts of terror there, and we're satisfied. We don't usually go into a horror movie expecting a highly literate plot, but the plausibility of a ghost story depends upon a little coherence. "Pa-Siyam" has an anxious indeterminacy that proves hard to sustain, and as its story progresses, it becomes cluttered and confusing.

For instance, in one of several scenes that's more gross than scary, Cherry Pie Picache's Denise (one of the five siblings) wakes up to find human excrement and vomit scattered all over the room. She irrationally accuses her sane and normal teenage daughter for causing the mess. Now, why would anyone dump shit all over the bedroom and then sleep in it? Anyway, Denise hysterically calls for help. In the next scene, though, we see her washing up nonchalantly in the bathroom, and after that, she meets up with her siblings and doesn't say a word about what just happened. They even sleep in the same bedroom come night time. (Apparently the production people cleaned up without consulting the screenwriters.)

We know that characters in horror movies are supposed to be a little stupid, but we need to develop some kind of bond with at least one of them. This is hard to do with "Pa-Siyam," because the roles are so hollow, and the screenplay is dead on arrival. The movie wastes the talents of such actors as Paulate and Picache, who are always a plus in any production. No one here is remotely interesting or sympathetic, except maybe the ghost.

About that ghost

Oh, yes, about that ghost. There's nothing quite like a malevolent presence that implacably inflicts evil on everyone, but for a mother to do so on her children, no matter how much she's been wronged by them, is a little hard to take. It is made known, of course, that the mother here has been less motherly than most—cruel at times, and even turned crazy before she died. She may also have had a very good reason to be angry. Still, a murderous mother is guaranteed less of an acceptance factor, horror-wise, than most villains in the genre.

There are a few more elements in the storyline that further robs it of credibility but we want to stop nitpicking. Suffice it to say that the only way anyone could possibly enjoy this movie is to shift all mental faculties into neutral and just drift through it.

Halloween has come and gone and Christmas has turned the corner and yet Regal Films is still trick-or-treating? Sadly, "Pa-Siyam" is more trick than treat.

KAREL Marquez

Karel Marquez likes Ronian Poe /4

Sarah Geronimo among People Asia's celeb picks /4

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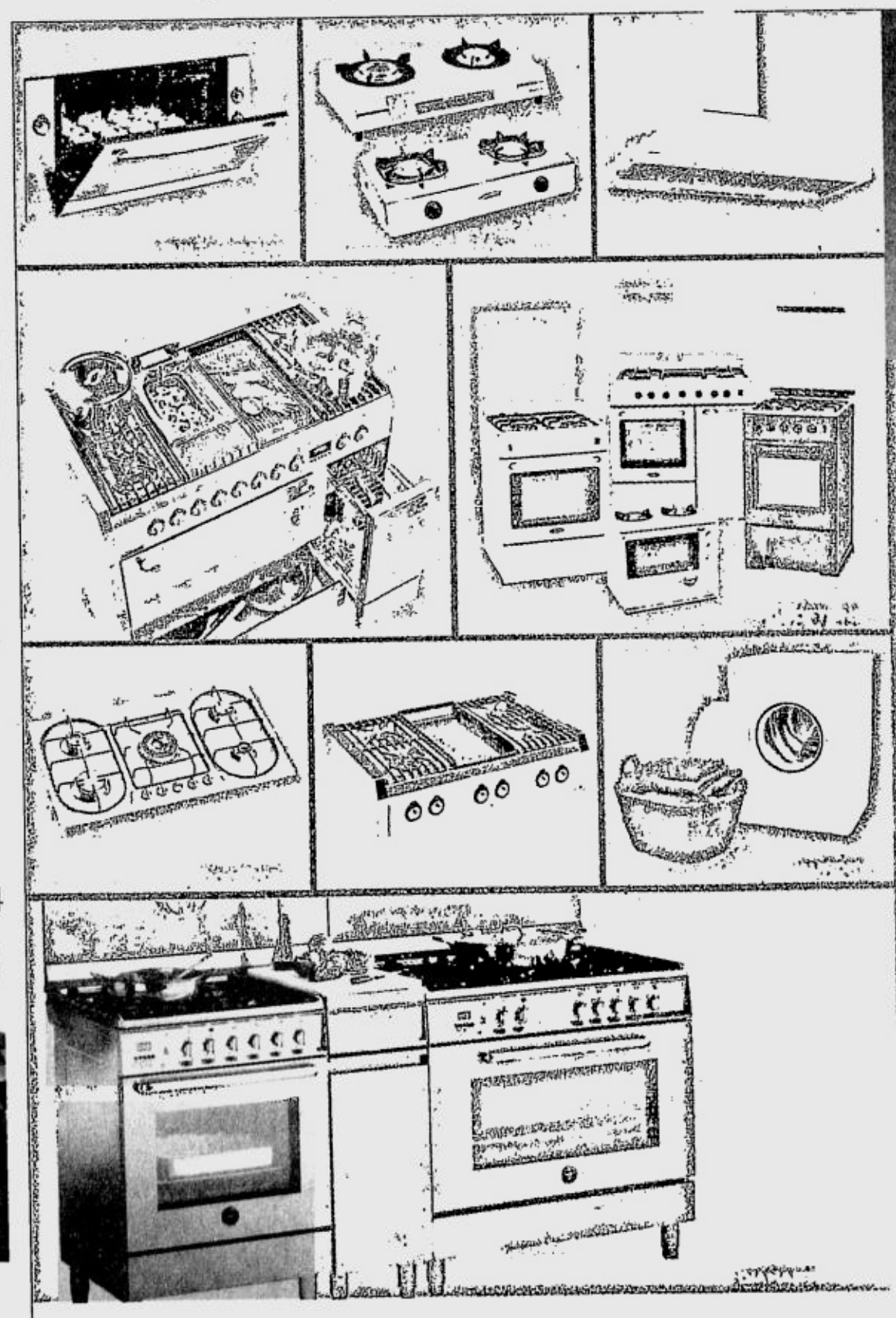

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14 newbies shine in 'JAM Sessions,' on CD and tape

OCTOBER last year, JAM 88.3 launched a show that it called JAM Sessions, to give unsigned amateur talents a chance to be heard. Young students, professionals, as well as people who simply like playing music, flocked to the studio for auditions.

Since then, Sunday night was never the same again at the station—for both the hopeful musicians and the listeners. It wasn't surprising that many of the groups who turned up developed a fan base through the show. Thus, JAM Sessions made a big difference in live music on the FM band.

The show's phenomenal success inspired BMG Records executives to turn portions of its best editions into an album similar to "MTV Unplugged." Fourteen of the individuals/groups who performed in the show were picked to be included in the album eventually titled, "Radio Live: The JAM Sessions Recordings."

These singers come from different backgrounds, with only passion for music as common denominator. Wynnford Martillana, a licensed commercial pilot, sings his version of John Mayer's "My Stupid Mouth" in the album. Myles de la Fuente, prior to the program, taught music and performed in various gigs and theater shows. She was also a semi-finalist in GMA-7's "Star for a Night" talent search. In the "Radio Live" album, she does a cover of Natalie Imbruglia's hit, "Torn."

Benzi Robledo and Sofia Arga of the Group Benzi and Sofia and Ara Pagaling are still college students, but they sound like seasoned professionals with their versions of "Shifting Sand" and "Hands to Heaven." Groups like Pancake 80 and Licketysplit were regular fixtures in popular gig spots but were never heard on radio before JAM Sessions. They do "Not This Time" and "Wish" for the album. Other tracks are: "Cool With You" by 3rd Degree, "Big Yellow Taxi" by Jeff's Crib, "Who Will Save Your Soul?" by Jeazel, "Wonderwall" by Bryan de Leon, "I'm in Love" by Firelane, "Cry" by Lucid, "Ikaw" by Paul Flaviano, and "Queen of Hearts" by Liteswitch.

"Radio Live: The Jam Sessions Recordings" also includes the single "Same Ground" by Kitchie Nadal. It is now available in CDs and cassettes.

MBC tops polls

MANILA Broadcasting Co. (MBC) stations dominated all five industry polls conducted this year by the Radio Research Council (RRC), survey arm of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP).

The surveys were held from June to September in Baguio, Iligan, Zamboanga, Tacloban and Tuguegarao.

Flagship station DZRH, which broadcasts via satellite to 20 relay stations nationwide, topped the Tuguegarao poll.

Tacloban figures showed DYVL and DZRH posting a one-two finish among AM stations.

DYVL clinched the top slot with audience shares of 14.1 percent Thursdays through Saturdays and 8 percent Sundays.

On the FM band, DYTM Love Radio Tacloban broke records with audience shares of 49.8 percent Thursdays through Saturdays and 76.1 percent Sundays.

The Tacloban survey showed that, Thursdays through Sundays, more than seven out of every 10 listeners are tuned in to an MBC station.

Data from Baguio City showed that Love Radio—DWMB is the top FM station in the area, and DZRH relay station City led all competitors on the AM band.

In Iligan City, Yes FM-DXTL bested all other stations.

In Zamboanga, Hot FM-DXHT emerged No. 1. It is MBC's pop-format station in the South.

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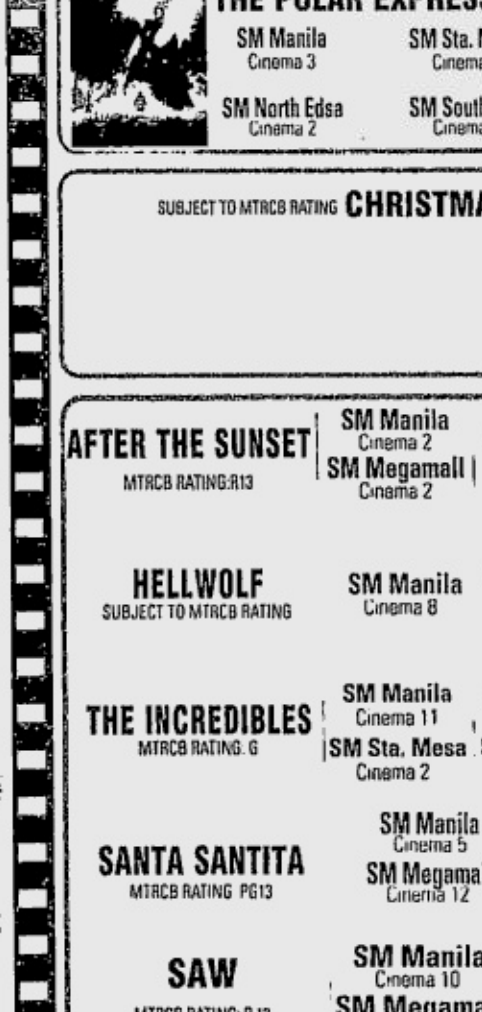

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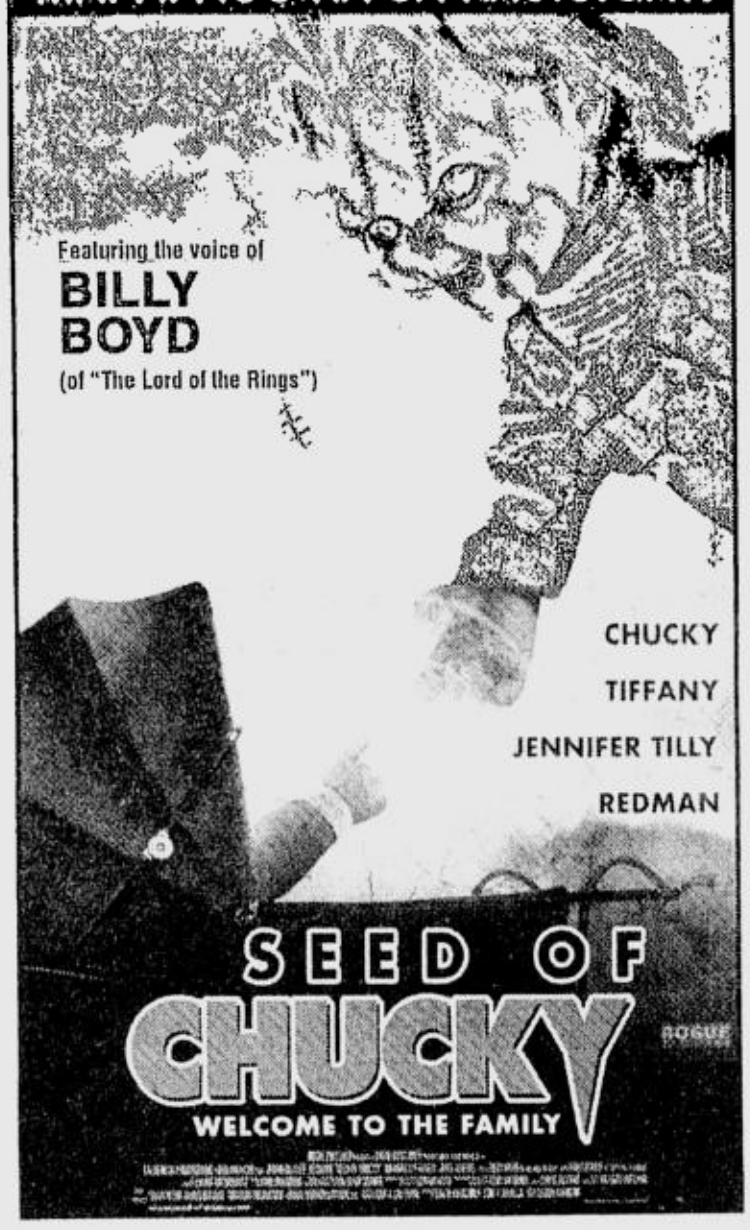

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Nolte, guard in rape rap

LOS ANGELES—Actor Nick Nolte has been sued by the parents of a teenage girl who said she was raped during a party in his absence at his California home after she was drugged by his security guard.

According to the lawsuit, which was filed Nov. 29 and made public on Friday, Nolte was involved in efforts to cover up the videotaped assault and was aware, or should have known, that his Malibu home was regularly being used for parties where drugs and alcohol were furnished to minors.

The suit also said the unnamed security guard was employed by Nolte despite the actor's "advanced knowledge" of the man's "propensity... for providing alcohol and/or drugs to minor children" in order to coerce or solicit sex from them.

Nolte, 63, and the security guard were listed as defendants with three others, including Nicholas Woodring, who was convicted in March of having sex with a minor in connection with the January 2003 incident described in the suit. That minor was the Los Angeles-area girl bringing the suit, who was then 15.

"The victim in this case wants to make sure that nothing like this ever happens again at that house," said attorney Philip Dunn, who represents the girl's family.

Dunn said Woodring, who was then under 21, served 180 days in jail for his guilty plea, in which a more serious charge of rape by use of drugs was dropped. A spokesperson for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said no one else in the criminal case was charged.

Dunn said the security guard's identity had yet to be ascertained. Two other unnamed defendants were described only as being underage at the time—one of them a resident of Nolte's home.

Nolte's publicist said in a statement: "The incident happened nearly two years ago when Mr. Nolte was not at the property. It is our understanding that the individual responsible has been held accountable. Mr. Nolte was at the time, and still remains, concerned for the young lady's well-being." *Reuters*

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ALEXANDER R13 12:50,4:00,7:10,10:20	NATIONAL TREASURE GP 11:50,2:25,5:00,7:35,10:10	BRIDGET JONES PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50,10:10
CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS GP 12:00,1:55,3:50,5:50,7:50,9:50	SEED OF CHUCKY R18 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00,10:00	POLAR EXPRESS GP 12:00,2:15,4:30,6:45,9:00

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2 BRIDGET JONES (EDGE OF REASON)
FS 11 45AM 2 15PM 4 45PM 7 15PM LMF 9 45PM (PG-13)

3 POLAR EXPRESS
FS 11 30AM 2 00PM 4 30PM 7 00PM LMF 9 30PM (GP)

4 NATIONAL TREASURE
FS 11 00 AM 1 45PM 4 30PM 7 15PM LMF 10 00PM (GP)

PREMIERE THEATRE — INCREDIBLES (GP)
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GALLERIA 632-9116/18

1 ALEXANDER • THX 11:40 3:00 6:20 9:40	6 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
2 ALEXANDER 12:10 3:30 6:50 10:10	7 THE INCREDIBLES 11:40 2:10 4:40 7:10 9:40
3 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:35 1:40 3:45 5:50 7:55 10:00	8 HELLWOLF 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
4 PA-SIYAM 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	9 THE POLAR EXPRESS 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
5 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10 BCUZ OF U 11:45 2:20 4:55 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 PA-SIYAM 10:35 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50	
2 HELLWOLF 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:50	5 NATIONAL TREASURE 1:35 4:10 6:45 9:40
3 ALEXANDER 2:40 6:05 9:40	6 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:15 12:15 2:15 4:20 6:25 8:25 10:00	7 RESERVE

METRO EAST 682-8183/98 / 682-8280

1 BCUZ OF U 10:20 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10	5 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:55 1:50 4:45 7:40 10:30
2 HELLWOLF 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00	6 SEED OF CHUCKY 10:30 12:05 3:00 5:15 7:30 10:00
3 BRIDGET JONES 2 10:30 1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10	7 ALEXANDER 12:40 4:00 7:20 10:30
4 THE INCREDIBLES 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00	8 PA-SIYAM 10:25 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 ALEXANDER 10:40 1:50 5:00 8:15	5 BRIDGET JONES 2 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
2 NATIONAL TREASURE 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30	6 THE POLAR EXPRESS 10:45 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:20
3 PA-SIYAM 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55	7 SEED OF CHUCKY 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
4 BCUZ OF U 10:30 1:00 3:30 6:00 8:30	8 THE INCREDIBLES 10:30 1:00 3:15

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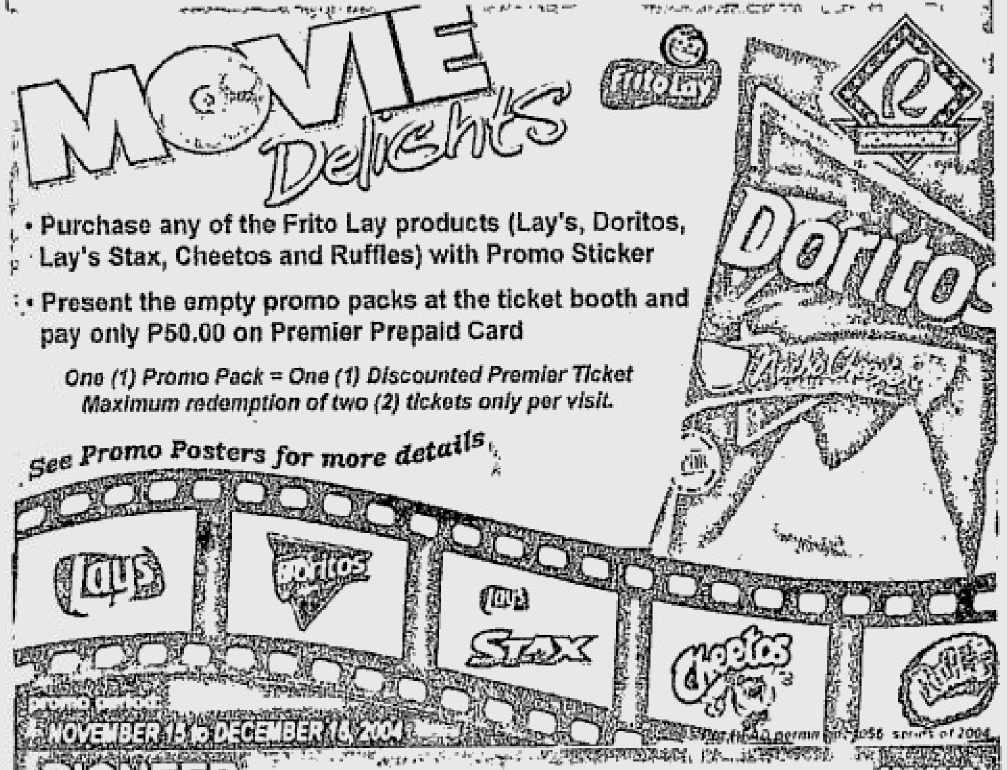


promo period: NOVEMBER 15 to DECEMBER 16, 2004

PIONEER 687-6378

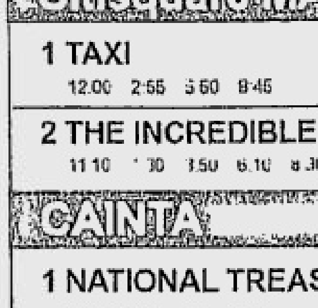
1 ALEXANDER 10:30 1:50 5:10 8:30	3 NATIONAL TREASURE 12:05 2:55 5:45 8:45
2 BRIDGET JONES 2 [illegible] 10 [illegible] 20 [illegible] 20 [illegible] 40 [illegible]	4 THE POLAR EXPRESS 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

Citisquare MALABON 288-0986 / 2579

1 TAXI 12:00 2:55 5:50 8:45	3 BCUZ OF U 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30
2 THE INCREDIBLES 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	4 DARKNESS 11:45 1:55 4:0 6:15 8:30

CAINTA 240-4601

1 NATIONAL TREASURE 11:15 2:10 5:05 8:00	3 PA-SIYAM 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 8:50
2 ALEXANDER 10:35 1:55 [illegible] 8:35	4 BRIDGET JONES 2 12:10 2:50 5:30 8:10



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Karel Marquez: 'Ronian is just a friend'

THE YOUNG man knows how she feels, according to Karel.

By Marinel R. Cruz

In fact, the pretty VJ says, FPJ's son is not even courting her

VJ AND commercial model Karel Marquez has asked her younger brother and not Ronian Poe—son of action king and former presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.—to be her escort when she celebrates her 18th birthday on Dec. 21, according to the pretty teener herself.

"It's better that way. Kevin is 12," Karel told INQUIRER Entertainment at the Bobson Apparel press conference last week. "Actually, I'd [rather not] have an escort because I want a birthday party that's very casual and laid back."

Ronian, or Ron Allan, in an interview with Korina Sanchez on "Rated K Handa Na Ba Kayo," admitted that he had a crush on the daughter of singer Pinky Marquez. People started seeing them together days later, like when Karel performed with the Onda Latino band at Dish last September.

But Karel insists there is no "relationship" with Ronian: "He confessed that he used to like me back when we're not yet *barkada*, but he didn't court me or anything. I've forgotten how I reacted to that confession. He knows how I feel."

Suddenly, friends

Karel says she and Ronian met at a friend's party two years ago and have remained friends since. She recalls: "When I first found out that he was FPJ's son, I didn't believe it. I even thought it was a joke. I even asked him, 'so Poe *rin ang apelyido mo*?' And we both laughed."

She adds that she often ran into Ronian subsequently at friends' homes or in gimmick spots. "Suddenly, we were *barkada*. The last time we went out was several days ago, when we had coffee at Starbucks Rockwell. Everybody thinks we're a couple because we're together all the time, but we're not."

Other than preparing for her birthday party, Karel is occupied with regular appearances on "Seasons of Love," "MTB," and "ASAP Mania" on ABS-CBN, as well as "Myx" and "Wazzup Wazzup" on Studio 23. She is also an endorser of Bobson apparel, along with Aga Muhlach and Japoy Lizardo.

"There's so much to do, though I'd rather concentrate on work and school," says Karel, a Marketing freshman at Thames International Business School. "I also want to get back to my favorite sport, wake boarding."

Japoy's dream

Because of her commitments, Karel can only make time for wake boarding once every two months. Jon Paul or Japoy, on the other hand, attends taekwondo training twice a day.

"My biggest dream is to win an Olympic gold for the country," he says.

Japoy, 18, has been training since he was 8. In 2000, he won his first gold medal at the Korea Taekwondo Open. He brought home a silver medal from the US Taekwondo Open in 2002 and two gold medals from the National Taekwondo Competition last year.

A sophomore at the De LaSalle University taking up sports studies, Japoy signed a contract with ABS-CBN's Talent Center last September and has attended several personality development workshops since.

"I want to focus on acting after I'm done with the workshops," says Japoy. "For me, acting is as challenging as being an athlete."

Mark can't believe he's 'Lastikman'

GREAT THINGS are happening to chums Sarah and Mark. They're two of the hardest-working young stars today.

By Remy Umerez
Contributor

MARK Bautista, finalist in the 2002 edition of GMA-7's talent search, "Star for a Night," still can't believe he is playing "Lastikman," the superhero created by the late Mars Ravelo in the early '50s.

"I didn't want to listen to hearsay, or believe what I had been reading in the tabloids," he recounts. "I wanted to hear it straight from the horse's mouth. I figured that my manager, Ms Veronique del Rosario Corpus, daughter of Boss Vic, should be the one to break the news to me. We spoke regularly, and all we discussed were singing engagements."

But after the recent Night of the Champions show at the Araneta Coliseum, Vic del Rosario approached him and said, "O, Mark *ikaw na ang* Lastikman (you are Lastikman)." He was speechless, he tells us on the set of the movie in Kamuning, Quezon City.

Pure energy

Director Mac Alejandre discusses the character once portrayed by Vic Sotto: "Lastikman has more powers than other super heroes. But his enemies also possess great powers, which they all got from the same tree that healed the protagonist Adrian Rosales and transformed him into Lastikman."

The villains have been limited to two, Alejandre says. "One is Alfonso (John Estrada) with his son Reden (Danilo Barrios), descendants of a werewolf clan. The more hideous antagonist is Lastika, played by Cherie Gil, who was mistaken for an *aswang*. The townsfolk brutally killed her children, and she is bent on exacting revenge."

As an actor, he says, Mark is "pure energy," and has perfect comic timing. "He listens to instructions and is not reluctant to ask if there's anything he does not understand. He is very focused. I can sense that he is very determined to succeed."

Alejandre reveals that the original choice to play the role was Hero Angeles, but that negotiations have fallen through.

A singer first

Today, the scene Mark is doing does not require him to don the tight-fitting costume. It takes place at the breakfast table, where Adrian's father and a relative argue about the existence of Lastikman, while the young man quietly listens.

After the take, we resume our conversation. Mark confides: "All I really wanted was to sing and earn money. But if Viva thinks I can act, *eh di* okay *lang*. They have been in the business for so long, managing talents who became big stars."

He used to dream a lot, he says. "Whenever I saw posters of new singers, I wished I would someday see my photographs up there, too, on Edsa billboards, or on the back cover of some fan magazine. I worked on my singing by joining various bands. I attended an acting workshop conducted by Peque Gallaga. I read somewhere that an aspiring talent should know how to sing, dance and act. My agenda was to be a famous balladeer like Martin Nievera."

Only 22 years old, Mark may in fact become the next Pinoy show biz idol, based on his current visibility in the concert circuit. The success of Night of the Champions brought him to the United States, where the show was subsequently booked. He believes he "bonded well" with the champs—Sarah Geronimo, Rachelle Ann Go, Christian Bautista and Raymond Manalo.

Simple guy

Mark and Sarah are, in fact, Viva's answer to the love team of Hero Angeles and Sandara Park. In "Lastikman," he may be a superhero, but he can't muster enough courage to declare his love for Lara (Sarah Geronimo), his childhood friend.

In real life, Mark has his eye on Rachelle Ann. "But she has turned me down, because her priority is her singing career," he says.

The simple guy from Cagayan de Oro currently resides with an uncle in Quezon City. He has bought a new car, and a piece of farm land in his native province. Not bad for someone who had less than P500 when he journeyed to Manila in a cargo ship two years ago to join a television talent search.

Sarah Geronimo makes 'People of the Year' list

SARAH Geronimo has added another feather to her cap.

People Asia magazine has included the Teen Princess in its "People of the Year" list for the fifth anniversary issue that will be launched during a special party at the Manila Peninsula on Dec. 13.

The list includes such political heavyweights as President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, US President George W. Bush, Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte; and business leaders like Ben Chan, Lucio Tan and Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco.

In the show biz category, Sarah's right up there with Lea Salonga, Kris Aquino and Jasmine Trias.

As expected, Sarah is thrilled. "I can't believe it," she says. "It's such a big honor."

On account of her accomplishments alone, Sarah deserves to be in that list.

Only 16, she is a compleat entertainer. She has a quadruple platinum album.

She starred in sold-out concerts and a TV series, and done a slew of endorsements.

She recently embarked on a new endeavor, hosting ABS-CBN's "Morning Star" together with the gang from the hit concert, "Night of the Champions"—Rachelle Ann Go, Christian Bautista, Erik Santos and Mark Bautista.

But success has simply not gotten to her head. "I'm still the old Sarah," she says.

At the same time, she has fully adjusted to her stature in local entertainment.

Incredulous

"Sometimes I'm still overwhelmed," she says. "I say to myself, is this really happening?"

Sarah was catapulted to fame after winning in this year's "Star for a Night," the talent search launched by Viva TV. Her winning song, "To Love You More," became an instant hit. Her single, "Forever's Not Enough," was also a chart buster. Her first album, "Popstar, A Dream Come True," became a platinum four times over.

Her second album, "Sweet Sixteen" is now out in the market. She is also finishing the filming of "Lastikman," Viva Films' entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival this month.

Still, she finds time for her studies. Her mother, Divine Geronimo, never fails to remind her of the importance of schooling. Sarah is enrolled in Angelicum College's home study program. "One thing's sure," Divine says. "She doesn't lag behind regular students."

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6	DD Dolby	PA SIYAM 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40
7	DD Dolby	BCUZ OF U 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

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Dec. 27	DISNEY ON ICE 2PM/6PM
Dec. 28	DISNEY ON ICE 6PM